Apothecarius Argentum

PRINCESS COMICS

9

薬師アルジャン

山下友美

Tomomi Yamashita

PRINCESS COMICS

薬師アルジャン 9

山下友美

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PRINCESS COMICS

プリンセス・コミックス

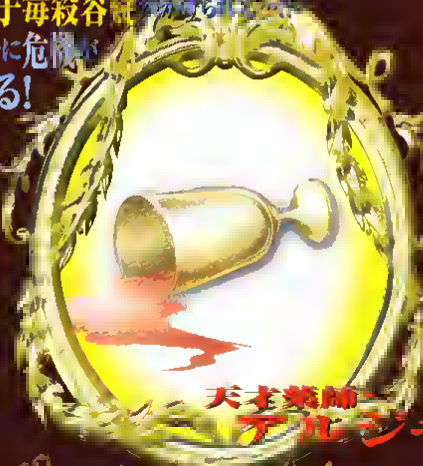
アルジャンとプリムラ姫に

ロルカ王子毒殺容疑

ベアゾルに危機

訪れる!

ドラマティック・ストーリー



あらゆる毒と薬を自在に操る

どんな病も治す

天才薬師

アルジャン。

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King Adona — Prince Daniel

King of Beazol. Although reputed to be cruel and ruthless, he is a doting parent when it comes to Primula.

Tristan. Almina to be king of Beazol

Corula. A mysterious female Basilisk.

Lulu. A doctor from Castoria. Used to be a Basilisk.

CREDITS

Scanned, Translated and Edited by IcarusBride

Thank you for reading my scanlation. Please understand that I am only a low-level student of Japanese language and there are probably many errors in my translation. If there is anyone with a better command of Japanese who is willing to translate for this series, please let me know!

APOTHECARIUS ARGENTUM

CHARACTER INTRODUCTION AND PLOT SUMMARY

Princess Primula. The King of Beazol's strong-willed daughter. Aka. - "The Steel Princess"

Argent Princess Primula's former poison tester. Currently a master Apothecary

Lorca. Prince of the neighboring country of Nevara. Primula's fiance.

Soila. Argent's Apprentice.

APOTHECARIUS ARGENTUM

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APOTHECARIUS ARGENTUM
RECIPE 33 THE CUP OF DESTINY

KINGDOM OF BEAZOL
NEAR THE BORDER
DANIEL -SAMA,
BEAZOL'S BORDER HAS JUST COME INTO SIGHT.
WELL THEN,
WE'LL JUST BARELY ARRIVE IN TIME FOR LORCA'S WEDDING CEREMONY.
"Today's letter is really quite humerous. Although my brother, the so-called "Baladeer of Love" might laugh at me about this kind of story, I wanted to tell it to someone who'll listen—"
"Dear Daniel-nisan. Have you been doing well on your journey? Were you able to discover Corda's whereabouts?
The ceremony for my marriage to Princess Primula is hastily approaching. Please come to Beazol a little early."

"After witnessing the brilliant aura she gives off I'd already determined to pledge myself to Beazol"
"The first time I met the Princess was at the birthday party all of her suitors were invited to"
"The rumored gluttinous fierce swordswoman Rather than vicious she seemed easy-going to me"
"But unexpectedly — this suprising princess can also be described as strong"
"According to Daniel_nisan's Manual of Love when a unique and very strong rival appears you must take action or disaster is certain!"
"Therefore while spending time with the Princess"
"I've not been acting like myself"

"I met her, and everything's changed."
"Until now, my life has been restricted because of illness and I've never experienced anything so bright as the so-called Power of Love."
"But at the same time, I started to fear my feelings."
"If I were to loose her..."
My disease is currently in remission but from now on, I'm worried about whether I will always be able to fulfill my duty of protecting the princess.
"So, Daniel-nisan, if by any chance something happens to me, please promise you'll take care of her, ok?"
LORCA, THAT PUNK, HAVING DOUBTS AT THIS STAGE OF THE GAME!!
EVEN HE CAN GET COLD FEET, HUH?
COLLAPSE

WHAT WAS THAT?
THE BORDER CROSSING HAS BEEN BLOCKED, NO ONE IS PERMITTED TO PASS THROUGH.
WHO THE HELL ARE YOU?!
RIGHT NOW, ACCORDING TO MARTIAL LAW, NO ONE IS ALLOWED TO ENTER THE COUNTRY.
I'M DANIEL, CROWN PRINCE OF NAVARA
I'VE COME TO ATTEND LORCA AND PRIMULA'S WEDDING CEREMONY.
DANIEL-SAMA OF NAVARA?
SO THAT MEANS... HE'S LORCA'S OLDER BROTHER?
HAS... SOMETHING HAPPENED?
THAT IS...
LAST NIGHT, PRINCE LORCA WAS ASSASSINATED.
HOW ?!

THE PRINCE WAS ASSASSINATED? IS THIS SOME KIND OF JOKE?!
WHAT'S MORE, THE PRINCESS AND THE SILVER APPOTHECARY SEEM TO BE THE CULPRITS
IN THE EARLY HOURS OF THE MORNING THEY WERE CAPTURED NEAR THE BORDER
IT'S BEING SAID THEY MIGHT HAVE BEEN TRYING TO ELOPE? COULD THIS RUMOR BE TRUE?
YOU'RE IN MY WAY!
COULD IT BE TRUE?!
WEREN'T YOU TOLD NOT TO LET ANYONE ENTER?!
HOW DID IT BECOME LIKE THIS?
LAST NIGHT THE PRINCESS WAS LOCKED IN THE TOWER WITH A MAID.
CARL, IT'S ME, DANIEL.
LOCKED IN? WHY?
DUE TO VARIOUS THINGS WHICH OCCURED

IT SEEMS LORCA FORCED HIS WAY IN.
BY THE TIME THE GUARDS NOTICED THE COMMOTION IN THE TOWER, THEY RUSHED IN ONLY TO FIND THE PRINCESS ALREADY GONE.
THE KING WAS LYING ON THE FLOOR UNCONSCIOUS AND PRINCE LORCA AND THE MAID WERE ALREADY--
WHERE IS LORCA?!
THE CORONATION WILL, OF COURSE, HAVE TO BE SUSPENDED
MY GOD..

I'VE JUST COME HERE AND THE "BALADEER OF LOVE", THAT PRINCE DANIEL, HAS APPEARED
AND THE APOTHECARY IS BEING IMPRISONED IN THE DUNGEON
THE PRINCESS IS CURRENTLY IN CUSTODY FOR HER OWN PROTECTION
APPARENTLY, THE PURPOSE OF HIS JOURNEY HAS BEEN TO SEARCH FOR YOU, CORDA.
EVEN SO, COULD IT BE THAT YOU'RE THINKING TO MAKE YOUR DREAM COME TRUE HERE IN BEAZOL BY SEDUCING THAT APOTHECARY?
...YOU WERE ABLE TO ACHIEVE YOUR GOAL SUCCESSFULLY, WEREN'T YOU, FORMER PRINCE, TRILDAN?
I WAS NEARLY ABLE TO FORCE THAT PRINCE TO JOIN US, YOU KNOW, BUT
UNBELIEVABLY, HE INTENTIONALLY SET THE ROOM ON FIRE IN ORDER TO BLOCK MY ESCAPE ROUTE
I WOULD NEVER JOIN YOU!

KLANG
KLANG
AS THE THIRD PRINCE, I WILL PROTECT THIS COUNTRY WITH MY LIFE!
I MADE A PROMISE TO INFREE AND THEM
THAT'S MY FINAL ANSWER!
THIS COUNTRY HAS NO FUTURE!
IF HE'D BEEN ABLE TO RESIST THE POISON EVEN A BIT LONGER, I'D ALSO BE DEAD.
I'VE PERSEVERED THIS FAR.
AND ANYWAYS, THERE IS STILL... ANOTHER PRINCE OF NAVARA.
COUGH COUGH
ALL OF YOUR EFFORT UP UNTIL NOW HAS PROVEN FUTILE.

"IF HIS LIFE DEPENDED ON IT," HM...?
HE WOULDN'T BETRAY BEAZOL EVEN IF HIS LIFE DEPENDED ON IT
YOU STILL HAVEN'T GIVEN UP ON THAT? THAT GUY'S IMPOSSIBLE
ONLY THEN CAN WE BRING THE APOTHECARY OVER TO OUR SIDE
BUT, WITH THIS THE PRINCESS AND THE APOTHECARY HAVE BEEN DISGRACED, AND IT'S ONLY A MATTER OF TIME FOR THE KING
WE HAVE ANOTHER CHANCE TO MAKE A MOVE NOW
WELL, THAT MATTER WILL HAVE TO BE PUT ON HOLD FOR NOW.
ARGENT, I CAN'T COME WITH YOU. I'VE ONLY COME TO SEE YOU OFF AT THE BORDER.
BEING LORCA, HE WROTE THAT EVEN IF I DON'T COME BACK, IT'S FINE.
I BELIEVE IN YOU. GO AHEAD AND SEE ARGENT OFF

PRINCESS! WHAT ARE YOU DOING IN A PLACE LIKE THIS? LORCA-SAMA AND HIS MAJESTY ARE--!
IT HAS TO BE A LIE.
LORCA ELIZA FATHER !
LORCA!
PRINCESS
PRINCESS PRIMULA, ARE YOU ALRIGHT?
PLEASE DRINK THIS, IT WILL CALM YOUR NERVES.
LORCA
I MUST HAVE HAD SUCH A TERRIBLE DREAM BECAUSE OF STRESS.

THAT WASN'T A DREAM, WAS IT?
WE WERE ONLY HALF-BROTHERS, BUT I GUESS WE DO LOOK SIMILAR.
DANIEL-SAMA--?
I'M SORRY.
IF ONLY I'D KNOWN-- I SHOULD HAVE COME BACK EARLIER--
BECAUSE I WAS FOOLISHLY CHASING AFTER ARGENT--
NO! THIS IS ALL MY FAULT!

*A RESPECTFUL WORD FOR 'OLDER BROTHER'.
YOUR ADVISORS AND MANY OF THE CITIZENS ARE ALSO PROBABLY ON YOUR SIDE.
OF COURSE ANILIE* AND I DON'T BELIEVE THAT ARGENT IS THE CULPRIT.
I JUST... I ONLY WANTED TO SEE ARGENT OFF...
BUT HOW DID THIS HAPPEN? NOT TO MENTION, USING POISON...
YOU NEED TO REST FOR A WHILE, PRINCESS
ACTING AS TEMPORARY REGENT, ADONIS-ANILIE IS LEAVING RESPONSIBILITY FOR UNCOVERING THE TRUTH TO ME
AS FAR AS TAKING 'RESPONSIBILITY' YOU'RE CERTAINLY TAKING YOUR TIME!
I'M WELL AWARE THAT NEITHER OF THEM HAS THAT KIND OF CHARACTER.
ANILIE, YOU DON'T BELIEVE THAT THOSE TWO WERE INVOLVED IN LORCA'S ASSASSINATION, DO YOU?
IT'S ONLY A MATTER OF TIME UNTIL THIS NEWS SPREADS OUTSIDE OF THE COUNTRY.
ONCE THAT HAPPENS NAVARA WILL ALSO BE IN DANGER OF BEING DRAGGED DOWN BY THIS AS WELL

THEN THE APOTHECARY'S BANISHMENT WAS ALSO ENGINEERED...?!
IF SO, THEN THERE'S EVEN MORE REASON FOR YOU TO BEGIN THE INVESTI-GATION.
THAT THE PRINCESS AND THE APOTHECARY'S RELATIONSHIP IS MORE THAN THAT OF MASTER AND SERVANT.
BUT... SOMEONE'S GOING TO A LOT OF TROUBLE TO SPREAD THE RUMOR
THE TIMING IS TOO GOOD THIS HAS TO BE...
WHO IN THE WORLD YOU'VE GOT TO BE KIDDING!
AND LORCA'S ASSASS-INATION,
THE RUMORS CRITICIZ-ING THE PRINCESS AND THE APOTHE-CARY,
AFTER ALL, ISN'T HE THE HERO WHO SAVED THE LIVES OF LORCA AND THE CITIZENS OF NAVARA?!
AND NOW THEY'RE SAYING HE SPENT THE NIGHT IN PRISON? WHAT REASON COULD THERE BE FOR HIM TO BE THERE?
YESTERDAY MY MASTER CAME TO THE CASTLE TO REPORT AN IMPORTANT BREAK-THROUGH,

YOU'RE AWFULLY PERSISTANT, ARE YOU ALSO LOOKING TO BE ARRESTED AS AN ACCOMPLICE?
SHING
HOLD ON!
BUT, IF I CAN AT LEAST JUST TALK TO HIM--
IN ANY EVENT, SINCE HE'S NOW ALSO SUSPECTED OF TREASON, NO ONE IS ALLOWED TO VISIT HIM.
LET HIM GO COME WITH ME, I'LL HEAR WHAT YOU HAVE TO SAY.
PRINCE DANIEL
UNFORTUNATELY, RIGHT NOW NO ONE'S PERMITTED TO SPEAK WITH HIM
IT'S ALRIGHT, I AM THEIR ALLY
HEY, IS IT REALLY TRUE THAT LORCA WAS ASSASSINATED?
WHAT MAKES THEM THINK THAT MASTER HAD ANYTHING TO DO WITH IT?

AH, TO AVOID THE MEDICINE SPOILING WE USE A SPECIAL DARK-COLORED BOTTLE.
THERE'S ONE MORE THING...
A MEDICINE BOTTLE WAS PLANTED AT THE SCENE OF THE CRIME.
OF COURSE IT WAS THE SAME COLOR AS THE BOTTLES ARGENT USES IN HIS PRACTICE.
IN OTHER WORDS, NO ONE BUT THE APOTHECARY ARGENT WOULD BE ABLE TO MAKE SOMETHING LIKE THAT
ONE WHICH DOES NOT OCCUR IN NATURE, AND CAN NOT BE CREATED WITHOUT THE USE OF ADVANCED TECHNOLOGY
THE RESIDUAL SUBSTANCE IN THE BOTTLE WAS IDENTIFIED AS AN UNKNOWN POISON
THAT'S ONLY TO MAKE MEDICINE, HE WOULD NEVER CREATE A POISON LIKE THAT!
SLAM
MASTER CERTAINLY DOES HANDLE POISONS, BUT
I SUSPECT IT'S THE WORK OF THOSE WHO ARE TRYING TO BRING DOWN THE PRINCESS AND THE APOTHECARY.
ANYWAYS, I KNOW EVERYTHING'S HAPPENING ALL AT ONCE

A FEW DAYS AGO, A MYSTERIOUS WOMAN CAME TO GET MEDICINE.
AFTER RECEIVING THE MEDICINE SHE PAID AND LEFT IN A HURRY.
NOW THAT YOU MEN-TION IT..
SODA, DO YOU KNOW SOMETHING ABOUT THIS?
WHAT DID SHE LOOK LIKE?
SHE HID BOTH HER FACE AND BODY BY WEARING A CLOAK.
AH! BUT--
THERE WAS A PLEASANT SMELL
ALMOST LIKE INCENSE
COULD IT HAVE BEEN CORDA?!

THE TRUTH IS UNCLEAR, BUT ACCORDING TO THE RUMORS, THE PRINCESS AND THE APOTHECARY CONSPIRED TO KILL HIM USING POISON.
THE KING OF BEAZOL COLLAPSED FROM THE SHOCK.
JUST OUTSIDE THE BORDERS OF BEAZOL, THE KINGDOM OF KENT
YES, THAT'S NOT UNLIKELY.
SHE WAS HEADED SOUTH WHEN I LOST HER TRAIL.
WHAT?
THE PRINCE FROM NAVARA DIED THE DAY BEFORE THE CEREMONY?
IF THAT'S THE CASE, IS THE LARGE NATION IN THE SOUTH MAKING A MOVE ALREADY...?
THAT'S HORRIBLE!
WELL,
ACTUALLY, THIS IS QUITE CONVENIENT.

AFTER FAILING TO ASSASSINATE THE KING OF BEAZOL, THE KINGDOM OF KENT WAS FORCED TO SUBMIT TO BEAZOL'S AUTHORITY.
BUT IF THE KING OF BEAZOL IS CURRENTLY INCAPACITATED BY ILLNESS, THAT'S ANOTHER STORY!
NOW IS OUR BEST CHANCE TO TURN THE TABLES!
BEGIN PREPARATIONS FOR WAR IMMEDIATELY!
BUT, KING GORIEL,
WITH THE 'GOD OF WAR', KING ADONA OF NAVARA CURRENTLY IN CHARGE IN BEAZOL, ISN'T IT A LITTLE HASTY TO START A WAR?
WHAT'S MORE, THE COUNTERMEASURES AGAINST THE MYSTERIOUS ILLNESS THAT KILLED SEVERAL PEOPLE AT KENT'S SEAPORT HAVEN'T BEEN COMPLETED YET...
THAT'S TRUE, THAT PRINCE AND THE APOTHECARY WERE THERE SEARCHING FOR THE ORIGIN OF THE MYSTERIOUS ILLNESS
WHAT ARE WE GOING TO DO NOW THAT THEY'RE GONE?
ENOUGH ABOUT THAT!
RIGHT NOW THE MOST IMPORTANT THING IS RESTORING KENT TO ITS FORMER GLORY
YOU'RE EXACTLY RIGHT, KING GORIEL.

WHO THE HELL ARE YOU?
PARDON MY ABRUPTNESS, I AM BUT A HUMBLE STREET PERFORMER, WANDERING FROM COUNTRY TO COUNTRY
AS IT WERE, BEING FAMILIAR WITH INTERNATIONAL TRADING OF 'NATIONAL TREASURES' IS A CONSEQUENCE OF MY LINE OF WORK
IN THIS CASE, WHEN CALLING ON YOUR MAJESTY, I KEPT IN MIND THAT VARIOUS NICK-KNACKS ARE NOT WHAT YOU NEED
THEN... DO YOU HAVE SOME USEFUL INFORMATION FOR ME?
YES.
YOUR MAJESTY SHOULD KNOW THAT YOU ARE NOT ALONE IN HOLDING A GRUDGE AGAINST THE KING OF BEAZOL
THEY ARE PRESENT IN ALL LEVELS OF SOCIETY IN BEAZOL AND NAVARA AS WELL AS IN OTHER COUNTRIES, PEOPLE WHO ARE JUST WAITING FOR THE CHANCE TO FIGHT BACK
BEFORE I PAY YOU ANY MONEY,
I'LL NEED MORE CONCRETE PROOF OF THESE FACTS

YES, OF COURSE THEN..
GORIEL OF KENT, IN AN ATTEMPT TO DESTROY BEAZOL, IS INCITING AN ANTI-MONARCHY MOVEMENT AND EVEN RECRUITING CITIZENS FROM OTHER COUNTRIES.
IT'S LIKELY THAT THIS INCIDENT WAS ALSO INSTIGATED DUE TO THE LARGE SOUTHERN NATION'S INFLUENCE.
IF I HAVE JUST A LITTLE MORE TIME, I'LL BE ABLE TO UNCOVER THE TRUTH!
IT'S DECIDED, WE URGENTLY NEED TO RETURN TO NAVARA
DANIEL, YOUR INVESTIGATION IS ON HOLD FOR NOW.
ANILE, JUST A BIT LONGER--
WHY DO YOU ALWAYS RUSH THINGS LIKE THIS?!
WE HAVE MORE IMMEDIATE CONCERNS RIGHT NOW THAN A FAR-OFF AND UNCONFIRMED ENEMY.

FROM THE VERY BEGINNING, PRIMULA AND LORCA'S MARRIAGE WAS FORCIBLY HASTENED.
IF THEY'D ONLY BEEN GIVEN A LITTLE MORE TIME, EVERYONE'S HEARTS WOULD HAVE BEEN ABLE TO ADJUST TO THE SITUATION.
PRIMULA AND ARGENT WOULD HAVE BEEN ABLE TO AVOID BEING BACKED INTO A CORNER LIKE THEY WERE.
WHILE ALL THIS WAS HAPPENING, WHO WAS THE ONE WHO SPENT ALL HIS TIME CHASING AFTER WOMEN?!
YOUR MAJESTY!
PUNCH
WHAT DID THE "BALADEER OF LOVE" DO TO SAVE OUR BROTHER?!
THAT'S RIGHT, I'M A FAILURE AS A PRINCE
YOU TWO ARE BROTHERS, YOU REALLY SHOULDN'T FIGHT LIKE THIS.
I AGREE.

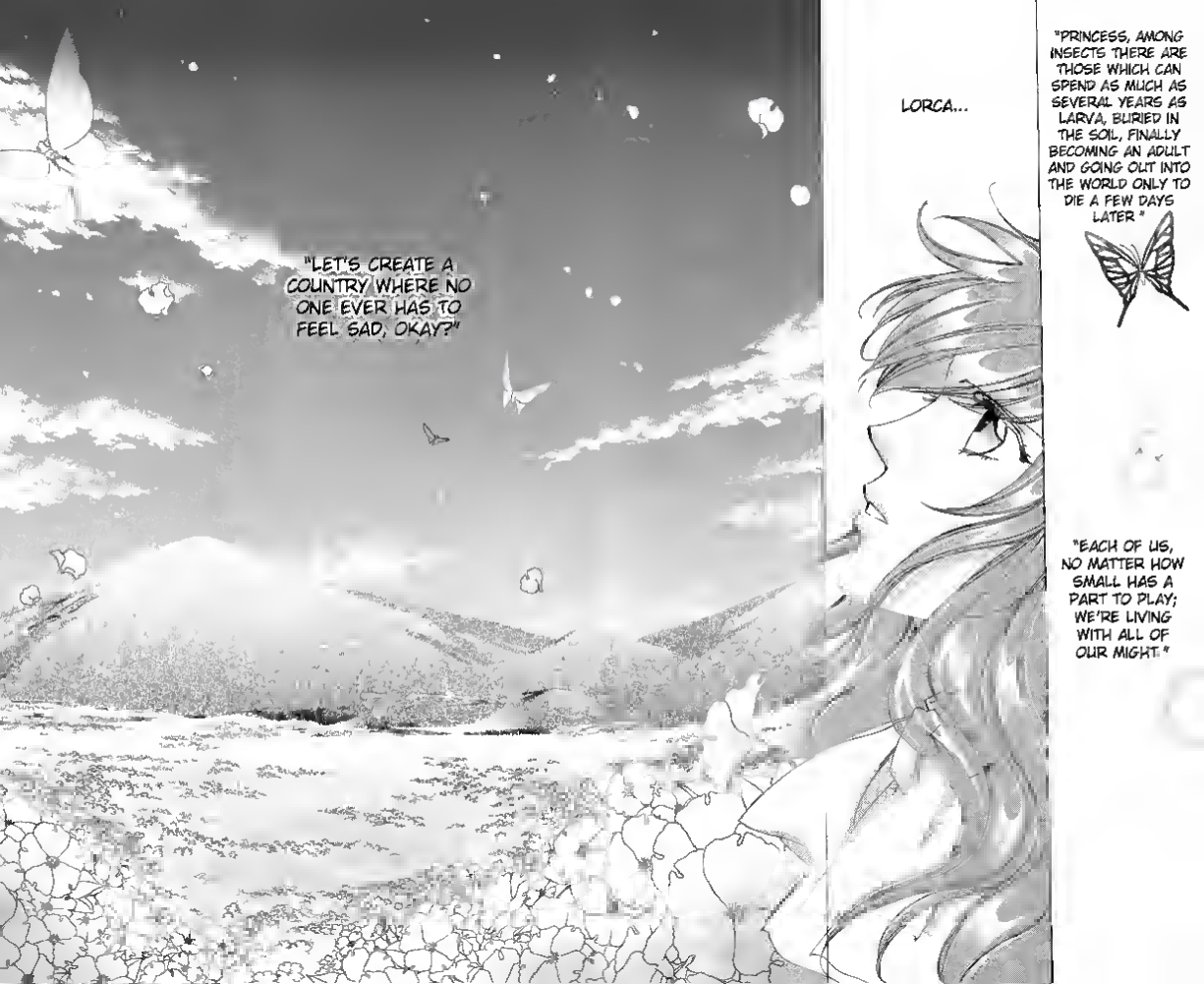
PLEASE, COME IN.
IT'S TRUE THAT WE ACTED TOO HASTILY
BUT WE WERE NOT WITHOUT OUR REASONS
THE KING IS...?
THE TRUTH IS, HIS CONDITION HAS BEEN DETERIORATING EVER SINCE THE TIME HE COLLAPSED AT THE PRINCESS'S BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION.
THAT'S WHEN WE REALIZED THAT HE WOULDN'T BE HIMSELF FOR MUCH LONGER
HE WAS WORRIED ABOUT THE PRINCESS'S FATE, AND THAT SOMEONE WOULD TRY STEAL THE THRONE FROM HER.
THAT'S WHEN LORCA APPEARED

HE HAD AN OVERWHELMING GIFT FOR BRINGING OUT THE BEST IN PEOPLE.
AS A RULER AND AS PRINCESS PRIMULA'S PARTNER, HE WAS A PERFECT CANDIDATE.
THAT'S WHY HIS MAJESTY RATHER AGGRESSIVELY FORCED THEM TOGETHER, ENTRUSTING EVERYTHING TO THIS GAMBLE.
UNFORTUNATELY, THE OUTCOME WAS A DISAPPOINTMENT.
I.
HAD NO IDEA
PRINCESS
FATHER WAS IN THAT STATE, AND I.
NOT KNOWING ANYTHING, HESITATED TO TAKE THE THRONE.
I'M SO SORRY.

IF THAT'S HOW YOU FEEL, PLEASE ASCEND THE THRONE AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.
HIS MAJESTY PERSONALLY EXPRESSED HIS WISHES TO ABDICATE THE THRONE TO YOU.
BUT THE WAY I AM NOW, I'M COMPLETELY UNFIT TO BE QUEEN
THERE'S NO ONE ELSE.
I CAN'T! LORCA'S LIFE WAS ALREADY LOST FOR THE SAKE OF THE THRONE.
NOT TO MENTION MY UNCLE TIGASON AND TRILDAN'S FAMILY, THEY ARE ALL DEAD BECAUSE OF ME.
FOR THAT EXACT REASON, YOU HAVE TO BECOME A SPLENDID RULER IN ORDER FOR THIS NIGHTMARISH BATTLE FOR SUCCESSION TO COME TO AN END.
DON'T LET LORCA'S DEATH BE IN VAIN.

ARGON-SAMA, CARLI AND THEM, EVERYONE BELIEVES IN YOU.
LORCA MAY BE GONE, BUT YOU STILL HAVE US.
BUT, BY MYSELF, HOW...
THERE'S NO OTHER CHOICE, YOU HAVE TO BECOME THE NEXT RULER OF BEAZOL.
"I THINK THAT'S WHAT MAKES A GOOD KING, BECAUSE EVEN A KING CAN'T DO EVERYTHING BY THEMSELVES."
"BEING A PRINCESS OR A QUEEN HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH IT. IT'S BECAUSE YOU'RE YOU THAT EVERYONE GATHERS TO SUPPORT YOU."

"PRINCESS, BY MARRYING WE'LL BUILD A BRIDGE CONNECTING OUR TWO COUNTRIES, WON'T WE?"
AS A REMINDER TO NAVARA AND BEAZOL TO AVOID FUTURE CONFLICT,
LORCA, WE'RE BURYING YOU HERE AT THE BORDER OF THE TWO COUNTRIES.
BESIDE YOUR LOYAL SERVANT INFREE.
AH!
YOU CAN'T, PRINCE ZESLAN.
THAT TINY INSECT IS ALSO ALIVE.
IT WANTS TO LIVE WITH ALL ITS MIGHT.


"LET'S CREATE A COUNTRY WHERE NO ONE EVER HAS TO FEEL SAD, OKAY?"
LORCA...
"PRINCESS, AMONG INSECTS THERE ARE THOSE WHICH CAN SPEND AS MUCH AS SEVERAL YEARS AS LARVA, BURIED IN THE SOIL, FINALLY BECOMING AN ADULT AND GOING OUT INTO THE WORLD ONLY TO DIE A FEW DAYS LATER."
"EACH OF US, NO MATTER HOW SMALL HAS A PART TO PLAY; WE'RE LIVING WITH ALL OF OUR MIGHT."

"RIGHT NOW, WHAT BEAZOL NEEDS IS NOT YOU, THE APOTHECARY, BUT YOU, THE ASSASSIN."
"FOR THE SAKE OF KEEPING ORDER IN THE COUNTRY, YOU SHOULD NEVER HAVE DETOXIFIED YOUR BODY."
"ARGENT, WE WANT YOU TO LEAVE BEAZOL."
"YOU COULD HAVE INFILTRATED ENEMY TERRITORY AND TAKEN OUT THE PERSON AT THE TOP SINGLE-HANDEDLY."

THE KING WAS RIGHT AFTER ALL. I NEVER SHOULD HAVE RETURNED FROM CASTORIA.
BUT THAT WAS BEFORE...
OW!
MASTER, MASTER!

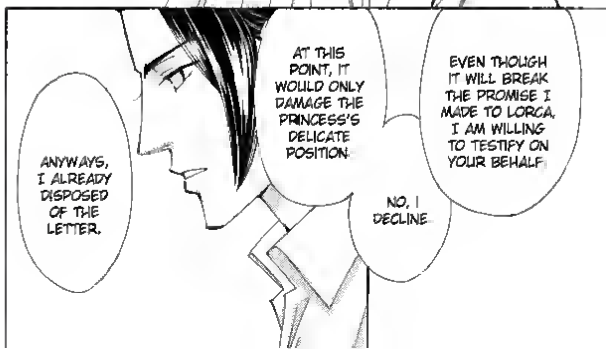
YEAH, YEAH
MASTER, YOU'RE STARTING TO LOOK REALLY HAGGARD.
OLD MAN GARANA, HURRY UP WITH THE MEAL!
I FINALLY GOT PERMISSION TO VISIT YOU.
SODA, WHY ARE YOU HERE?
I TRUST THE PHARMACY IS OKAY?
THANK YOU...
DANIEL-SAMA?
RIGHT NOW DANIEL IS WORKING EARNESTLY TO DISCOVER THE ORIGIN OF THE POISON THAT KILLED PRINCE LORCA.
YEP, NO NEED TO WORRY.
WE ALL BELIEVE YOU THAT YOU AND THE PRINCESS WERE NOT THE ONES WHO CONSPIRED TO POISON LORCA.
I'M CURRENTLY IN THE MIDDLE OF INVESTIGATING THE TRUTH
I GUESS SO, BUT EVEN THOUGH I WAS ABLE TO REMOVED THE POISON, IT STILL ENDED UP LIKE THIS
IT SEEMS YOU'VE RETURNED SUCESSFULLY FROM YOUR TRIP TO CASTORIA TO DETOXIFY YOUR BODY
IT'S BEEN A WHILE, EH, ARGENT?

ABOUT THAT, I HEARD FROM SODA THAT A MYSTERIOUS WOMAN CAME TO BUY MEDICINE FROM YOU THE OTHER DAY.
DO YOU KNOW ANY-THING ABOUT IT?
A MYS-TERIOUS WOMAN?
RIGHT, DIDN'T A MYSTERIOUS WOMAN WHO CONCEALED HER FACE COME THE OTHER DAY?
AH...
BUT, THAT WAS IT I DIDN'T EXAMINE HER.
MASTER!
MORE IMPOR-TANTLY, HOW IS THE PRIN-CESS?
THE WAY IT LOOKS NOW, SHE'LL BE CROWNED VERY SHORTLY
BETWEEN THE ANTI-MONARCHY FACTION AND THE DISSATISFIED CITIZENS OF NEARBY COUNTRIES WE'RE GETTING A LOT OF OUTSPOKEN OPPOSITION. WE NEED MORE TIME.
I SEE...

EVEN IF SHE'S JUST SITTING ON THE THRONE, THERE'S STILL HOPE...
IN EXCHANGE FOR TEACHING ME THE PRECISE METHOD FOR DETOXIFYING A BASALISK, IS THERE ANYTHING YOU WANT?
THEN, I HAVE A REQUEST FOR SODA.
I'M WORRIED ABOUT THE CASES OF MYSTERIOUS ILLNESS IN KENT'S SEAPORT
WON'T YOU PLEASE GO TO CASTORIA AND MEET WITH LULLI DIRECTLY TO GET HER HELP?
BUT, MASTER!
IF I'M WORRIED, HOW DO YOU THINK POPOLA AND THEM WILL FEEL?
ALSO, DANIEL-SAMA,
ALRIGHT, I'LL DO IT.
I'D LIKE TO SPEAK WITH ARGON-SAMA DIRECTLY.

...WHY DON'T YOU PRESENT THE LETTER FROM LORCA AS EVIDENCE, ARGENT?
TAKE CARE.
THAT SHOULDN'T BE A PROBLEM.
THEN, I'LL BE BACK SOON

TO GET THE PRINCESS OUT OF THE ENEMY'S PATH, WE SENT HER TO SEE YOU OFF.
LORCA SUSPECTED THAT ELIZA WAS BEING CONTROLLED BY AN ASSASSIN TARGETING THE PRINCESS
THE ONE WHO HELPED LORCA PLAN THE PRINCESS'S ESCAPE WAS ME.


ANYWAYS, I ALREADY DISPOSED OF THE LETTER.
AT THIS POINT, IT WOULD ONLY DAMAGE THE PRINCESS'S DELICATE POSITION.
EVEN THOUGH IT WILL BREAK THE PROMISE I MADE TO LORCA, I AM WILLING TO TESTIFY ON YOUR BEHALF.
NO, I DECLINE.

SEVERAL DAYS LATER
RUNNING
ARGON-SAMA, I HAVE A REQUEST.
ARGENT, YOU WANTED SOMETHING FROM ME?
ARGENT, ARE YOU PLANNING...

CLATTER
ARGENT!
ARGENT!
ARGON, WHAT IS THE MEANING OF THIS?
PRIN-CESS.
YOU INTEND TO EXECUTE ARGENT?!
HE CONFESSED TO BEING GUILTY OF EVERYTHING.

I AM SOLELY RESPONSIBLE FOR THE PRINCE'S ASSASSINATION
DESPITE THE DIFFERENCE IN SOCIAL CLASS, THE PRINCE AND PRINCESS TREATED ME KINDLY. EVEN THOUGH I KNEW IT WAS WRONG, I LET MYSELF BECOME TOO DEEPLY ATTACHED TO THE PRINCESS.
IT'S ONLY TO BE EXPECTED THAT PEOPLE WOULD BE SUSPICIOUS OF OUR RELATION-SHIP.
TO PUT AN END TO THE CHAOS, I WILL GLADLY ACCEPT RESPONSIBILITY.
RESPON-SIBILITY?
THAT DOESNT MEAN BEING EXECUTED!
THAT'S RIGHT, YOU'RE JUST OFFERING YOURSELF UP AS A SCAPEGOAT!
PRINCESS, THIS IS NOT AN EXECUTION BUT RATHER HONORABLE SUICIDE BY DRINKING POISON.
FURTHERMORE, THIS WILL PRESERVE YOUR REPUTATION AS THE FUTURE QUEEN

AT THAT TIME IF YOU HADN'T SAVED MY LIFE, I WOULDN'T BE LIVING NOW
OTHERWISE I'D HAVE LONG AGO BEEN ERASED FROM THIS WORLD;
THAT WAS ENOUGH FOR ME
THIS SHOULD HAVE HAPPENED LONG AGO. MY ENTIRE EXISTENCE HAS BEEN A MISTAKE.
AS THE QUEEN, I'D LIKE YOU TO BE THE ONE...
PRINCESS PRIMULA, THE POISONED CHALICE...

WELL, PRINCESS?
NO..
I CAN'T DO SOMETHING LIKE THAT...
Chatter
Chatter
IF SHE'S TOO TENDER-HEARTED TO ENFORCE PUNISHMENTS...
A WOMAN CAN'T RULE THE COUNTRY AFTER ALL
CRASH
PRINCESS.

PRIN-
CESS,
THANK
YOU FOR
EVERYTHING.
ARGENT,
STOP!
!
Drip
ARGENT!
YOU CAN'T
DRINK IT,
THE WAY
YOU ARE
NOW...!

ARGENT!
NO, ARGENT!
PRINCESS!
ARGENT--!!

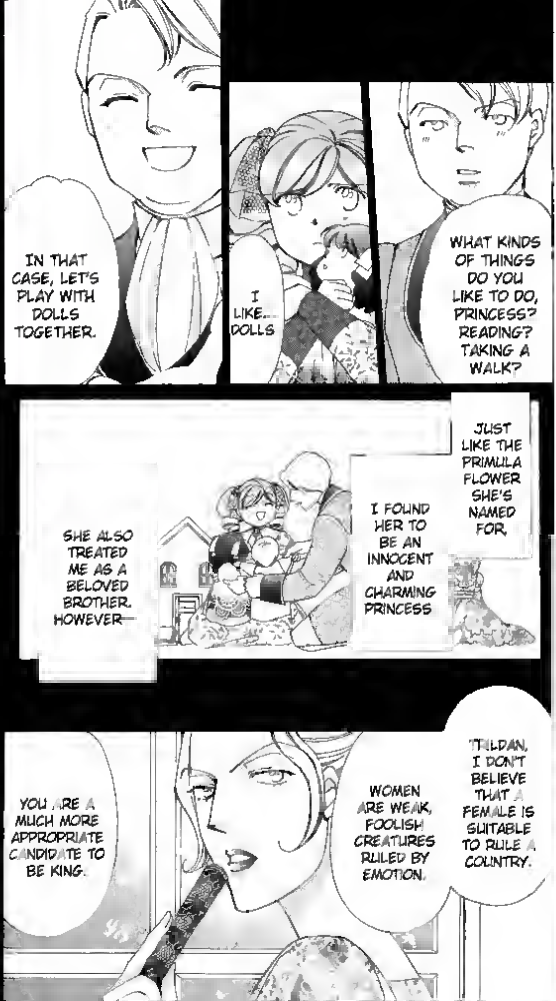
HE APPEARS TO BE WELL AND TRULY DEAD.
WAIT, ARGENT!
THIS IS TO AVOID THE BODY BEING DEFILED AS A PERCEIVED TRAITOR.
TAKE THE BODY AWAY IMMEDIATELY TO BE CREMATED
PRIN-CESS..
DO PEOPLE HAVE TO KEEP DYING LIKE THIS..?
WHY...
"HOW ABOUT LEAVING THE COUNTRY UNDER COVER OF THE COMMOTION CAUSED BY THE FESTIVAL?"
THEN, THAT TIME WHEN YOU SAID..
I HAVE NO DESIRE TO SIT ON A THRONE COVERED WITH BLOOD. I'VE HAD ENOUGH OF THIS COUNTRY!

YOU WERE THE ONE SPREADING RUMORS DISCREDITING THE ROYAL FAMILY IN THE CITY!
IT'S BEEN A WHILE, PRINCESS. I RE-ENTERED THE COUNTRY SOME TIME AGO AS A TRAVELING ENTERTAINER
YOU--?
AH, CARLI. FOR THAT MATTER, EVERYONE, LONG TIME NO SEE
DAMN, IF THERE'S ANOTHER LIVING HEIR TO THE THRONE, THEN?!
TRILDAN, THE KING OF BEAZOL'S YOUNGER BROTHER TIGASON'S ONLY SON?
PRINCE TRILDAN?! YOU WERE BELIEVED TO HAVE DIED BACK THEN!
ACCOMPANYING AN ENTERTAINER SEEMED RATHER USEFUL. I WAS ABLE TO LEARN ABOUT THE LIFESTYLES OF PEOPLE IN OTHER COUNTRIES AND RECEIVE THEIR SUPPORT.
SINCE THEN, I HAVE BEEN TRAVELING WITH THEM.
AFTER THAT, A CERTAIN TRAVELING ENTERTAINER RESCUED ME AND SAVED MY LIFE

IT WAS HIS MAJESTY WHO SAID "THE CITIZENS CHOOSE THE KING" BUT...
RIGHT NOW, BETWEEN THIS WOMAN WHO IS GOVERNED BY HER PERSONAL FEELINGS AND I,
WHO DO YOU THINK THE CITIZENS WILL CHOOSE? HAHAHAHAHA!
CH 33 END

APOTHECARIUS ARGENTUM
RECIPE 34 BETRAYAL

TRILDAN, THIS IS YOUR COUSIN, PRINCESS PRIMULA
PRINCESS, THIS IS MY SON, PRINCE TRILDAN.
THE FIRST TIME I MET HER, WE WERE BOTH AROUND 10.
N-NICE TO MEET YOU, TOO, PRINCE TRILD N.
NICE TO MEET YOU, PRINCESS. IT'S AN HONOR.
ONE DAY, THE TWO OF THEM, HAND IN HAND, WILL SHOULDER THE BURDEN OF BEAZOL'S RULERSHIP.
IT'S GOOD TO SEE THEY'RE MAKING FRIENDS.
JUST LIKE US BROTHERS, EH?


IN THAT CASE, LET'S PLAY WITH DOLLS TOGETHER.
I LIKE... DOLLS
WHAT KINDS OF THINGS DO YOU LIKE TO DO, PRINCESS? READING? TAKING A WALK?
SHE ALSO TREATED ME AS A BELOVED BROTHER. HOWEVER—
I FOUND HER TO BE AN INNOCENT AND CHARMING PRINCESS
JUST LIKE THE PRIMULA FLOWER SHE'S NAMED FOR.
YOU ARE A MUCH MORE APPROPRIATE CANDIDATE TO BE KING.
WOMEN ARE WEAK, FOOLISH CREATURES RULED BY EMOTION.
TILDAN, I DON'T BELIEVE THAT A FEMALE IS SUITABLE TO RULE A COUNTRY.

CROWN PRINCE TIGASON, HIS WIFE DELMOBETTE, PRINCE TRILDAN,
ALL THREE OF YOU WILL BE EXECUTED FOR PLOTTING TO ASSASSINATE PRINCESS PRIMULA.
TRILDAN, RUN AWAY!
SO THAT YOU CAN RETURN SOMEDAY AND GET REVENGE!
SO YOU'RE TIGASON'S SON, TRILDAN?
YES, THAT'S RIGHT. I'VE COME TO TAKE THE THRONE FROM YOU AND YOUR DAUGHTER.
WE'D NEVER ACCEPT YOU AS OUR KING!
GET OUT OF BEAZOL!
TRILDAN, BECOMING KING ISN'T SOMETHING YOU CAN CHOSE FOR YOURSELF.
THE WAY YOU ARE NOW. JUST DECLARING YOURSELF KING WON'T MAKE YOU ONE.

I HAVE NO DESIRE TO SIT ON A THRONE COVERED IN BLOOD. I'VE HAD ENOUGH OF THIS COUNTRY!
NOOO, ARGENT!! WHY DO PEOPLE HAVE TO KEEP DYING LIKE THIS?!
WELL, PRINCESS? TAKE THE POISONED CHALICE.
ARGENT WILL BE PUNISHED FOR POISONING PRINCE LORCA.
DAMN... HOW DID IT GET THIS MESSED UP?
EVEN IF WE HADN'T BOTH BEEN BORN INTO THE ROYAL FAMILY, I DON'T KNOW IF WE'D BE ON EQUAL GROUND AS GOOD FRIENDS RIGHT NOW.
I REALIZED THAT IF THE CONTROVERSY CONTINUES THE THRONE WILL COME BETWEEN US.

SO, WHAT SHE SAID THAT TIME,
"HOW ABOUT LEAVING THE COUNTRY UNDER COVER OF THE COMMOTION CAUSED BY THE FESTIVAL?"
THAT WAS MEANT TO BE HER FINAL ACT OF MERCY TO ME.
IT'S REALLY PRINCE TRILDAN!
TRILDAN?
THE KING'S NEPHEW. IN OTHER WORDS, ANOTHER HEIR TO THE THRONE.
WASN'T HE BELIEVED TO HAVE DIED IN THE PREVIOUS COUP D'ETAT ATTEMPT?
HE APPEARED SUDDENLY AFTER THE PRINCESS ABANDONED THE THRONE FOLLOWING THE APOTH-ECARY'S EXECUTION
EHH, ABAN-DONED THE THRONE?
IN THE CONFUSION AFTER THE PRINCESS LEFT, IT LOOKS LIKE SOME OF THE ADVISORS TURNED COAT AND LAID OUT THE WELCOME MAT FOR HIM.
NEVER MIND THAT! THE MOST IMPORTANT THING IS THAT TRILDAN-SAMA IS ALIVE!

I ALWAYS BELIEVED!
THERE'S NO WAY TRILDAN-SAMA WOULD HAVE GIVEN UP SO EASILY!
AH... UM, AND WHO WERE YOU?
KE! FRAUL, I TOOK PART IN THE COUP D'ETAT LAST TIME.
I SEE. ALL OF YOU TOO, IT'S GOOD TO SEE YOU'RE DOING WELL
I WOULDN'T SAY WE'VE BEEN DOING 'WELL'—
SINCE THEN, OUR SOCIAL STANDING HAS BEEN DEMOTED. THE HUMILIATION IS...
IF YOU WERE ALIVE, WHY DIDN'T YOU COME BACK SOONER?
SIGH...
CLICK
AS USUAL, NOW THAT THE WINDS ARE CHANGING IN MY FAVOR, THEY ARE QUICK TO SHOW UP.

Chatter
EVERYONE, LISTEN CAREFULLY!
AS I'VE ALREADY SAID, I OWE MY LIFE TO THE TRAVELING ENTERTAINER WHO RESCUED ME.
I'M FED UP WITH FIGHTING OVER THE THRONE. I'D RATHER SPEND THE REMAINDER OF MY LIFE AS A COMMONER, JOURNEYING WITH THEM.
HOWEVER, ONCE I HEARD THE ALARMING RUMORS ABOUT THIS COUNTRY...
CRASH
AND WHEN, FULL OF WORRY FOR MY BELOVED MOTHERLAND, I STOPPED BY TO DETERMINE THE TRUTH FOR MYSELF, SURE ENOUGH, THIS WAS THE END RESULT.
WHAT DID YOU SAY?!
AND THAT HIS MAJESTY IS TAKING THE FIRST STEPS TOWARDS TYRANNY, DISPOSING OF ANYONE WHO SPEAKS AGAINST HIM...
THAT THE PRINCESS WHO ALREADY HAS A FIANCE, HAS AN 'UNDERSTANDING' WITH HER LOYAL APOTHECARY,

YOU WERE THE ONE WHO STARTED THOSE RIDICULOUS RUMORS IN THE FIRST PLACE!
WHAT PROOF DO YOU HAVE TO ACCUSE ME OF SUCH A THING?
BESIDES, THE PRINCESS HAS ALREADY ABANDONED THE THRONE, AFTER ALL.
WHILE IT'S STILL UNCERTAIN WHO WILL BE THE NEXT KING OF BEAZOL, DO YOU THINK IT'S A GOOD IDEA TO SPEAK TO ME LIKE THAT,
CARLI-KUN, THE PRINCESS'S ETIQUETTE TUTOR?
!
TH-THAT IS... LIKE THE PRINCESS, I MUST BE SPEAKING MADNESS
IT WASN'T MY INTENT!
FINE, THEN FROM HERE ON OUT, YOU'D BETTER LEAVE THIS MATTER TO THE COUNCIL.
SINCE WE DON'T KNOW IF THE KING WILL EVER OPEN HIS EYES AGAIN

Y-YES, IT'S MY PLEASURE.
KEI FRAUL, I'LL BE STAYING AT YOUR MANOR FOR A WHILE.
THEN, I'LL BE TAKING MY LEAVE
IF YOU NEED SOMETHING, COME BY AT ANY TIME
TAP TAP TAP
YOU COME HERE CALLING YOURSELF A PRINCE, THEN SAY YOU HAVE NO INTEREST IN THE THRONE?
COULD IT BE THAT YOU...
IN THAT CASE, WHY DON'T YOU JUST KILL THE KING AND THE PRINCESS RIGHT NOW?
IT'S JUST THAT, IF I'M GOING TO MAKE THE COUNTRY COLLAPSE, THE FASTEST WAY TO DO SO IS FROM THE INSIDE
NOW MORE THAN EVER, I HAVE NO INTEREST.

MORE IMPORTANTLY, HOW'D IT TURN OUT WITH THE APOTHECARY?
I'M NOT TAKING MY REVENGE THE EASY WAY BY KILLING THEM BECAUSE I'M DIFFERENT FROM THAT HEARTLESS KING.
THAT'S NOT REALLY MY INTENTION.
I SNATCHED HIM IMMEDIATELY AFTER THE EXECUTION.
I WAS ONLY BARELY ABLE TO RESUSCITATE HIM. HE STILL HASN'T REGAINED CONSCIOUSNESS.
INGESTING THAT SMALL AMOUNT OF DEADLY POISON AND SURVIVING
IS NO BIG DEAL FOR A BASILISK.
YES. IT SEEMS THAT THE DETOXIFICATION PROCESS WAS NOT YET COMPLETE THAT'S WHY THE POISON WASN'T ABLE TO KILL HIM.
BUT WITH HIS BODY ALREADY WEAK FROM THE STRAIN OF THE CRYSTALLIZATION PROCESS TO REMOVE THE TOXINS, IT COULDN'T DEFEND AGAINST THE ADDITIONAL POISON.

DO YOUR BEST TO WIN HIM OVER WITH YOUR GENTLE NURSING.
YOU NEVER KNOW, MAYBE YOU WILL BE ABLE TO GAIN HIS ASSISTANCE FOR YOUR OWN DETOXIFICATION.
"THERE IS A WAY FOR A BASILISK TO BE DETOXIFIED."
"MATE WITH ANOTHER BASILISK AND PRODUCE A CHILD."
"IF YOU DO THIS, ALL OF THE POISON WILL GATHER IN THE FETUS, DETOXIFYING THE MOTHER."

NO MATTER HOW MUCH I WANT TO RESTORE MY BODY TO NORMAL, TO CONSIDER IT FOR EVEN A MINUTE IS...
IN HINDSIGHT, IT WAS A STUPID IDEA ALL ALONG.
MATE WITH A BASILISK."
I DON'T EVEN PARTICULARLY LIKE HIM.
NO MATTER WHAT I DO, HE CONTINUES TO SUFFER.
UGH! PRIN- CESS
RATHER THAN PROLONGING HIS PAIN, ENDING IT QUICKLY WOULD BE MORE MERCIFUL.

THAT'S WHY...!
THE PRINCE WHO WAS THOUGHT TO BE DEAD SUDDENLY SHOWED UP.
WHO WILL BE THE NEXT RULER OF BEAZOL?
I SUPPORT THE PRINCESS, BASED ON HER PERFORMANCE UNTIL NOW.
BUT IT DOES SEEM LIKELY THAT THE SERIES OF MISFORTUNES LATELY HAVE BEEN A CONSEQUENCE OF HER BEING A NAIVE, SWEET-NATURED GIRL.
TRILDAN BECOMING KING IS STARTING TO SEEM THE MORE PRUDENT CHOICE.

THE COUNTRY'S OPINION SEEMS TO BE DIVIDED IN HALF.
BECAUSE THE COUNCIL IS RECONSIDERING CROWNING THE PRINCESS,
TRILDAN'S POSITION AS AN HEIR TO THE THRONE IS BEING CONSIDERED.
HONESTLY, IT WAS TRULY UNEXPECTED THAT ANOTHER HEIR TO THE THRONE WOULD EMERGE.
BUT, IF IT'S COME TO THIS, EVEN AS THE KING OF NAVARA, I CAN'T INTEREERE
BEAZOL'S FATE DEPENDS ON THE COUNCIL.
CARLI, HOW ARE HIS MAJESTY AND THE PRINCESS DOING?
HIS MAJESTY IS STILL UNCONSCIOUS, AND THE PRINCESS IS DAZED AND UNRESPONSIVE.

PRINCESS,
PRINCESS PRIMULA
DANIEL-SAMA HAS BEEN WATCHING OVER HER CONTINUOUSLY, BUT .
IF YOU DON'T EAT SOMETHING, YOUR BODY WILL WITHER AWAY.
GARANA MADE SEAFOOD SOUP, ISN'T IT YOUR FAVORITE?

NO MATTER HOW STRONG OF A PRINCESS SHE IS, SHE STILL HAS A HEART.
OF COURSE SHE'LL BE AFFECTED.
RIGHT AFTER LOOSING LORCA, SEEING ARGENT EXECUTED LIKE THAT RIGHT IN FRONT OF HER,
IT'S NOT UNREASONABLE
I'VE NEVER SEEN HER LIKE THIS.
SHE DIDN'T EVEN GET TO PAY HER FINAL RESPECTS.
EVEN THE CORPSE WAS IMMEDIATELY DISPOSED OF
BUT EVEN LIKE THIS, SHE'S FINE SHE'S GROWN ON ME
CERTAINLY AS THE "BALADEER OF LOVE" SHE WOULDN'T HAVE BEEN MY TYPE
BUT, DANIEL -SAMA, IT'S SURPRISING THAT YOU'RE GOING SO FAR TO BE KIND TO HER
THAT'S TRUE, HUH

THAT'S SOMETHING EVEN I DON'T KNOW.

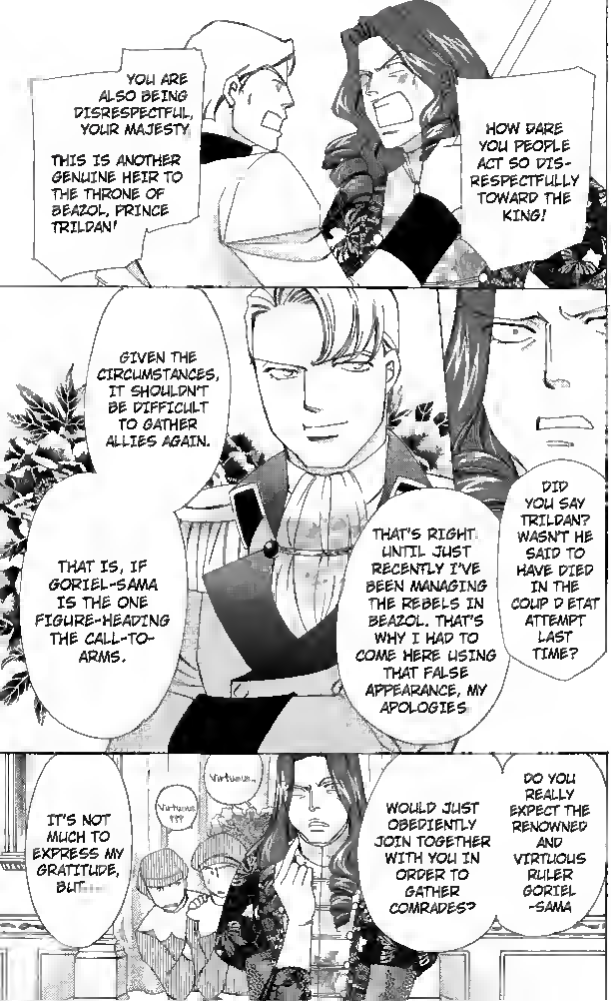
AS A WOMAN, HER CHARMS ARE ADMITTEDLY A LITTLE LACKING.
SO WHY AM I DRAWN TO HER?

MOREOVER, SHE'S THE GIRL LORCA GAVE HIS LIFE TO PROTECT.
IN ANY CASE, I WANT TO CARRY OUT LORCA'S DUTY TO THE BEST OF MY ABILITY.

WHAT I'M MORE WORRIED ABOUT IS THE FUTURE OF BEAZOL.
IF THAT GUY IS INSTALLED AS KING, EVERYTHING WILL COME UNHINGED.
THE KING AND THE PRINCESS MOST OF ALL. WHAT ON EARTH WILL BECOME OF THIS COUNTRY?

JUST OUTSIDE THE BORDERS OF BEAZOL, THE KINGDOM OF KENT
WHAT ?!
YOU'RE SAYING THE PRINCESS OF BEAZOL ABANDONED THE THRONE?
THIS JUST THE CHANCE WE'VE BEEN WAITING FOR.
CALL UPON ALL NEARBY ANTI-BEAZOL MOVEMENT COMRADES!
THIS TIME, FOR SURE, THE SOLDIERS WE GATHER WILL COMPLETELY DEMOLISH BEAZOL!
THAT IS...
A NEW HEIR TO THE THRONE OF BEAZOL HAS APPEARED...
AND THE ANTI-BEAZOL MOVEMENT IS UNDER HIS CONTROL.
WHAT DID YOU SAY?!

DISREGARDING ME, THE KING OF KENT!
AND CUTTING IN AT THE CRUCIAL MOMENT, WHO THE HELL IS THAT GUY?!
THAT WOULD BE ME.
IT'S FOR THIS REASON THAT I'VE COME VISIT NOW.
KING GORIEL, THE OTHER DAY WAS TOUGH. THANK YOU FOR YOUR ASSISTANCE.
YOU! YOU ARE THAT TRAVELING ENTERTAINER WHO CAME TO SELL INFORMATION BEFORE!
HEY! WHAT IN THE WORLD WERE YOU THINKING?!
WAS YOUR ENTIRE REPORT COMPLETELY FALSE?!
SHING


HOW DARE YOU PEOPLE ACT SO DISRESPECTFULLY TOWARD THE KING!
YOU ARE ALSO BEING DISRESPECTFUL, YOUR MAJESTY.
THIS IS ANOTHER GENUINE HEIR TO THE THRONE OF BEAZOL, PRINCE TRILDAN!
DID YOU SAY TRILDAN? WASN'T HE SAID TO HAVE DIED IN THE COUP D'ETAT ATTEMPT LAST TIME?
THAT'S RIGHT. UNTIL JUST RECENTLY I'VE BEEN MANAGING THE REBELS IN BEAZOL. THAT'S WHY I HAD TO COME HERE USING THAT FALSE APPEARANCE, MY APOLOGIES
GIVEN THE CIRCUMSTANCES, IT SHOULDN'T BE DIFFICULT TO GATHER ALLIES AGAIN.
THAT IS, IF GORIEL-SAMA IS THE ONE FIGURE-HEADING THE CALL-TO-ARMS.
DO YOU REALLY EXPECT THE RENOWNED AND VIRTUOUS RULER GORIEL -SAMA
WOULD JUST OBEDIENTLY JOIN TOGETHER WITH YOU IN ORDER TO GATHER COMRADES?
Virtuous...
Virtuous???
IT'S NOT MUCH TO EXPRESS MY GRATITUDE, BUT...

HERE IS A SMALL TRIBUTE FROM ME.
OH, COULD THIS BE— THE 'FIRE STICK' WE'VE HEARD RUMORS OF?
WHAT IS THIS? RED WINE?
IS IT EFFECTIVE AGAINST THE ILLNESS PRESENTING IN THE SEAPORT?
I'M NOT CERTAIN. BY ALL MEANS, GIVE IT A TRY AND SEE WHAT HAPPENS.
IF YOU HAVE ANY OTHER REQUESTS, ANYTHING AT ALL...
IT'S ALCOHOL WITH MEDICINAL PROPERTIES. IN OTHER COUNTRIES IT'S BELIEVED TO BE AN INVALUABLE TREASURE, CAPABLE OF CURING ANY ILLNESS AND GRANTING ETERNAL YOUTH

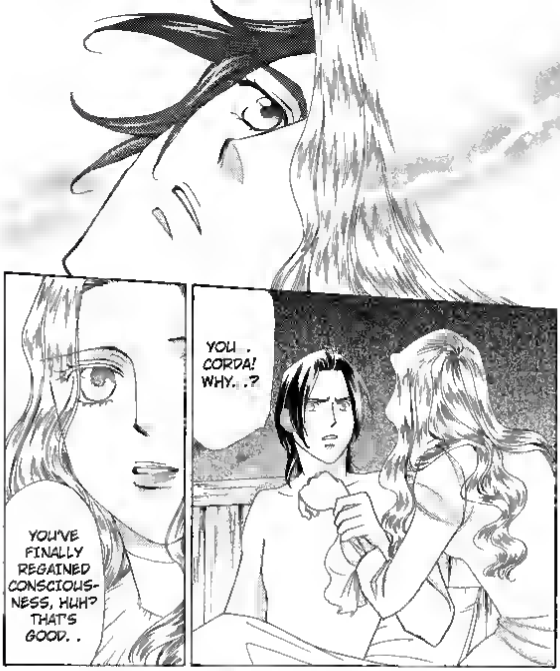
AS CORDA REPORTED, HE'S A TROUBLE-SOME BUT EASY TO DECEIVE MAN
HE'S CERTAIN TO PROVE A USEFUL PAWN
IT'S NOT LIMITED TO GORIBI: WHETHER IT'S ROYALTY OR ARISTOCRACY, THESE SO-CALLED 'HIGH-CLASS' PEOPLE ARE NOTHING BUT FOOLS
I MYSELF USED TO BE A PART OF THAT GARBAGE HEAP, SO I KNOW IT WELL.
THOSE GUYS, AS LONG AS THEIR OWN PRESTIGE AND FORTUNE ARE SECURE, THEY DON'T CARE WHAT HAPPENS TO THE COUNTRY.
RATTLE
RATTLE
AH— YEAH
I'M LOOKING FORWARD TO AN EVEN CLOSER RELATIONSHIP WITH KENT THAN EVER BEFORE.
BECAUSE, ONCE I BECOME KING,

EVEN NOW, WITH THE FIRE ALMOST UNDERFOOT, THEY DON'T CARE.
GET OUT OF THE WAY! THE DEAD ARE STILL BEING BROUGHT OUT OF THE SEAPORT
WHAT DID YOU SAY?!
TRILDAN -SAMA, SHALL WE MAKE A DETOUR?
NO, PROCEED ACCORDING TO PLAN
BUT, IF YOU WERE INFECTED WITH THE ILLNESS...
I AM FINE.
HOW SCARY! WHAT THE HECK KIND OF DISEASE IS IT THIS TIME?
RATTLE
RATTLE
AND THERE IS NO CURE?
PRINCE LORCA AND THAT APOTHECARY FROM BEAZOL WHO WERE INVESTIGATING ARE NO LONGER HERE...
AND UPHOLDING HIS PRESTIGE AS KING SEEMS TO BE THE ONLY THING IN GORIEL-SAMA'S MIND.
IN HINDSIGHT, THAT PRINCE LORCA WAS AN HONORABLE FELLOW.

"AS THE THIRD PRINCE, I VOW TO PROTECT THIS COUNTRY WITH MY LIFE."
"NOTHING CAN BRING BACK SOMEONE WHO HAS DIED."
"WHAT THOSE OF US WHO ARE LEFT BEHIND CAN DO IS NOT SEEK REVENGE, WHICH WOULD ONLY PERPETUATE THE SORROW ALL OVER AGAIN."
"I FEEL THAT THIS IS OUR OBLIGATION AS ROYALTY, WHO ARE IN CHARGE OF ADMINISTERING THE ENTIRE COUNTRY."
FATHER, MOTHER! WAAAAGH!
DID I DO THE WRONG THING?
STOP THE CARRIAGE
THAT WAS NOT MERELY FOR REVENGE
LIKE THAT TIME... IT WAS IN ORDER TO PREVENT POINTLESS TRAGEDY LIKE THAT FROM OCCURRING AGAIN
HUH? BUT, I DON'T HAVE ANY MONEY...
THIS IS FOR YOU. IT'S A CURE ALL MEDICINE
TRILDAN -SAMA! WHERE ARE YOU..?

I BELIEVE THEY'LL DEFINITELY WELCOME YOU WITH OPEN ARMS.
IF YOU'RE FORTUNATE ENOUGH TO SURVIVE, GO TO THE SOUTH.
THERE'S NO NEED I DON'T EVEN KNOW FOR CERTAIN IF IT'LL WORK.
WHICHEVER WAY THAT GAMBLE PANS OUT, PANDORA'S BOX HAS ALREADY BEEN OPENED.
THE CURE FOR THAT DISEASE IS NOT AS IT SEEMS.
PREPARE TO DEPART!
IT'S BEST TO REALIZE THE TRUTH THAT IN THE FACE OF OLD AGE AND DEATH, "SOCIAL STATUS", "WEALTH" AND SO ON ARE MEANINGLESS
FOR THIS COUNTRY, TOO, IT'S ONLY A MATTER OF TIME.
I DON'T KNOW IF IT WAS ONLY ABLE TO CURE ARGENT, BUT...

ARGENT, ISN'T YOUR MOUTH DRY? DRINK THIS.
PRINCESS PRIMULA?
YOU AREN'T ABLE TO DRINK FOR YOURSELF, ARE YOU? OPEN YOUR MOUTH, I'LL HELP YOU TO DRINK IT
PRINCESS, YOU CAN'T. I'M STILL... THE POISON..
IT'S ALRIGHT! BECAUSE YOU'VE BEEN RETURNED TO THE ORIGINAL STATE.
"THE ORIGINAL STATE"?
THAT'S RIGHT, YOUR ORIGINAL BODY..


YOU'VE FINALLY REGAINED CONSCIOUS-NESS, HUH? THAT'S GOOD. .
YOU . CORDA! WHY. .?
THE POISON USED IN YOUR EXECUTION WASN'T ABLE TO KILL YOU BECAUSE THE DETOXIFICATION PROCESS WAS NOT YET COMPLETE
TO ALLEVIATE YOUR SUFFERING, THE ONLY THING I COULD DO WAS STRIKE THE FINAL BLOW MYSELF, OR—
REMOVE THE CRYSTAL EMBEDDED IN YOUR BODY RESPONSIBLE FOR THE DETOXI-FICATION PROCESS

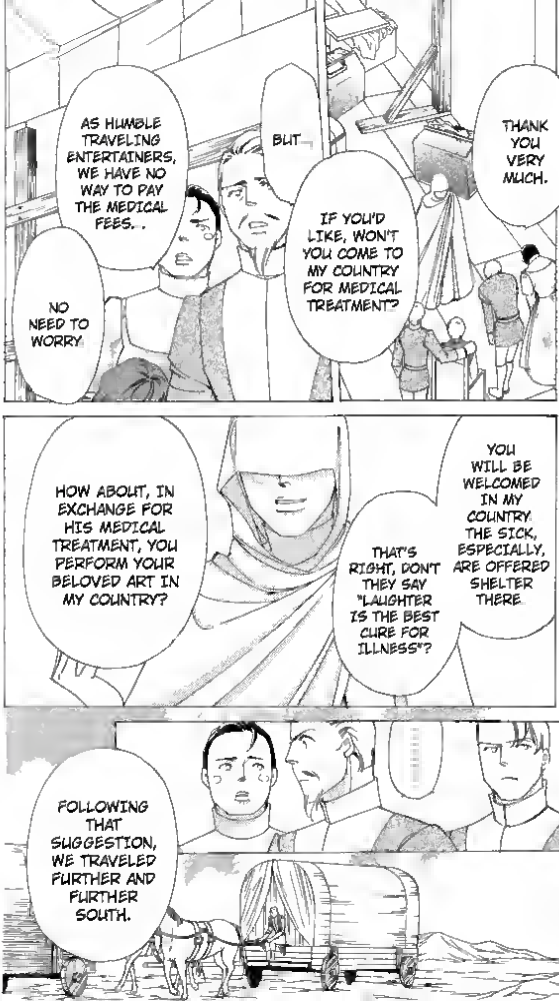
THEREFORE, I CHOSE THE LATER.
SO BASICALLY, YOU'RE SAYING I RETURNED TO BEING A BASILISK AGAIN. I GET IT...
THERE'S REALLY NO OTHER WAY TO DESCRIBE IT BUT 'PITIFUL'!
I'M SORRY FOR MY EXCESSIVE ACTIONS.
YOU SAID BEFORE "I WANT TO DIE AS A NON-BASILISK".
BUT I JUST COULDN'T BEAR TO WATCH YOU SUFFERING FROM THE POISON.
.....

IN THE BEGINNING AS THE PRINCESS'S POISON TASTER,
THEN AS AN APOTHECARY, TO DEVOTE YOURSELF TO THIS COUNTRY TO SUCH AN EXTENT...
ONLY TO BE BANISHED FROM THE COUNTRY AS SOON AS YOU BECAME INCONVENIENT IN THE END, YOU WERE EVEN EXECUTED IN SUCH A MANNER.
THAT VOICE..!
IT'S BEEN A WHILE, EH? APOTHECARY ARGENT.
PRINCE TRILDAN! HOW ARE YOU STILL ALIVE?
BECAUSE OF MY BLUNDER IN THE COUP D'ETAT AT BEAZOL'S BORDER, AND BECAUSE I FELL DOWN A CLIFF WHILE ESCAPING, I WAS NEAR DEATH.
BUT THANKS TO THE HELP OF A TRAVELING ENTERTAINER WHO HAPPENED TO BE PASSING BY, MY LIFE WAS SAVED.

WHY, WITH CORDA...?
COULD IT BE...
YOU'RE THE MASTERMIND BEHIND THE RECENT EVENTS...?!
MORE THAN 'MASTER-MIND', RATHER, I AM THE PERPETRATOR OF EVERY-THING.
WHAT HAPPENED AFTER THAT, I MAY AS WELL TELL YOU.
THE PERSON WHO HELPED ME WAS MY FATHER TIGASON WHO ESCAPED FROM THE FIRE AND WAS VERY MUCH ALIVE.
UNFORTUNATELY DUE TO THE SHOCK OF THE FIRE ALL OF HIS PREVIOUS MEMORIES WERE LOST.

ALTHOUGH WE WERE ONLY POOR ENTERTAINERS, TRAVELING THE COUNTRYSIDE WITH MY FATHER AND THE OTHER MEMBERS OF THE TROUPE, I'D FINALLY ATTAINED A SATISFACTORY LIFESTYLE
JUST BEING REUNITED WITH MY FATHER AGAIN WAS ENOUGH FOR ME.
THE THRONE AND BEAZOL DIDN'T MATTER.
HOWEVER MY FATHER DID NOT ENTIRELY LOOSE HIS MEMORY.
THAT IS, ON OCCASIONS WHEN HE WAS BEING JEERED AT BY THE AUDIENCE DURING A PERFORMANCE.
Y-YOUR MAJESTY, I BEG YOUR PARDON. ALL THE FAULT IS MY OWN...
FATHER, IT'S ALL RIGHT.
THERE'S NOTHING HERE THAT CAN CAUSE YOU HARM.
AH-- WHAT ARE YOU DOING, DELMO-BETTE?!
DELMO-BETTE? WHO IS THAT?
IT'S THE NAME OF A GIRL MY FATHER DALLIED WITH ONCE
HIS MEMORY IS NOT WHAT IT ONCE WAS, SO HOW---

IT'S ACTUALLY A FLASHBACK, RIGHT?
IT OCCURS WHEN A PERSON WHO HAS LOST THEIR MEMORY HAS AN INTENSE EXPERIENCE
SOME KIND OF STIMULUS CAUSES THEM TO REMEMBER SOMETHING
IF YOU'D LIKE, I HAVE SOME MEDICINE THAT WILL CALM HIM DOWN
IT'S ALRIGHT, THIS IS SOMETHING SIMILAR TO INCENSE
LOOK, HE'S BECOME RELAXED
INDEED


AS HUMBLE TRAVELING ENTERTAINERS, WE HAVE NO WAY TO PAY THE MEDICAL FEES. .
BUT...
THANK YOU VERY MUCH.
IF YOU'D LIKE, WON'T YOU COME TO MY COUNTRY FOR MEDICAL TREATMENT?
NO NEED TO WORRY.
HOW ABOUT, IN EXCHANGE FOR HIS MEDICAL TREATMENT, YOU PERFORM YOUR BELOVED ART IN MY COUNTRY?
THAT'S RIGHT, DON'T THEY SAY "LAUGHTER IS THE BEST CURE FOR ILLNESS"?
YOU WILL BE WELCOMED IN MY COUNTRY. THE SICK, ESPECIALLY, ARE OFFERED SHELTER THERE.
FOLLOWING THAT SUGGESTION, WE TRAVELED FURTHER AND FURTHER SOUTH.

THERE, AS HE SAID, WAS A MIRACULOUS COUNTRY WITHOUT A KING, ARISTOCRATS, PEASANTS AND SO ON, THERE WAS NO SEPARATION OF SOCIAL OR FINANCIAL STATUS.
IMPERVIOUS TO DISEASE, EVERYONE COOPERATED AND GOT ALONG
WHAT SURPRISED ME MORE THAN ANYTHING WAS THAT, ALTHOUGH LOCATED IN THE MIDDLE OF THE DESERT,
THROUGH THE USE OF ADVANCED TECHNOLOGY, THEY DREW WATER FROM THE FARTHEST REACHES OF THE COUNTRY.
A COUNTRY LIKE THIS EXISTED AT THE FARTHEST OUTSKIRTS OF THE CONTINENT.. WHAT KIND OF PLACE IS THIS?
THE KINGDOMS OF THIS CONTINENT BEAZOL, KENT AND THEM, SEEM TO HAVE BECOME HOSTILE BECAUSE THEY SEE THIS PLACE AS A THREAT
WHAT ON EARTH KIND OF PERSON ARE YOU REALLY?

FORMER PRINCE TRILDAN.
THE RULER OF THIS COUNTRY, I GUESS MY POSITION IS SIMILAR TO WHAT YOU PEOPLE WOULD CALL A KING. YOU MIGHT EVEN SAY WE'RE THE SAME, EH?
HOW?!
I'VE KNOWN ABOUT YOU, FATHER AND SON, FOR A WHILE NOW.
BUT, HERE, SOCIAL STANDING AND SO ON HAVE NO MEANING.
THIS COUNTRY WAS FOUNDED NOT LONG AGO.
ORIGINALLY, FAR ACROSS THE CONTINENT, THESE PEOPLE MADE THEIR LIVING USING ADVANCED TECHNOLOGY, BUT THE SURROUNDING PEOPLE CONSIDERED THEM A THREAT AND BECAME INHOSPITABLE.
DRIVEN OUT OF THEIR LAND, THEY MIGRATED HERE AND, THROUGH A LOT OF STRUGGLE, FINALLY MANAGED TO ESTABLISH THIS SOCIETY.
COULD IT BE.

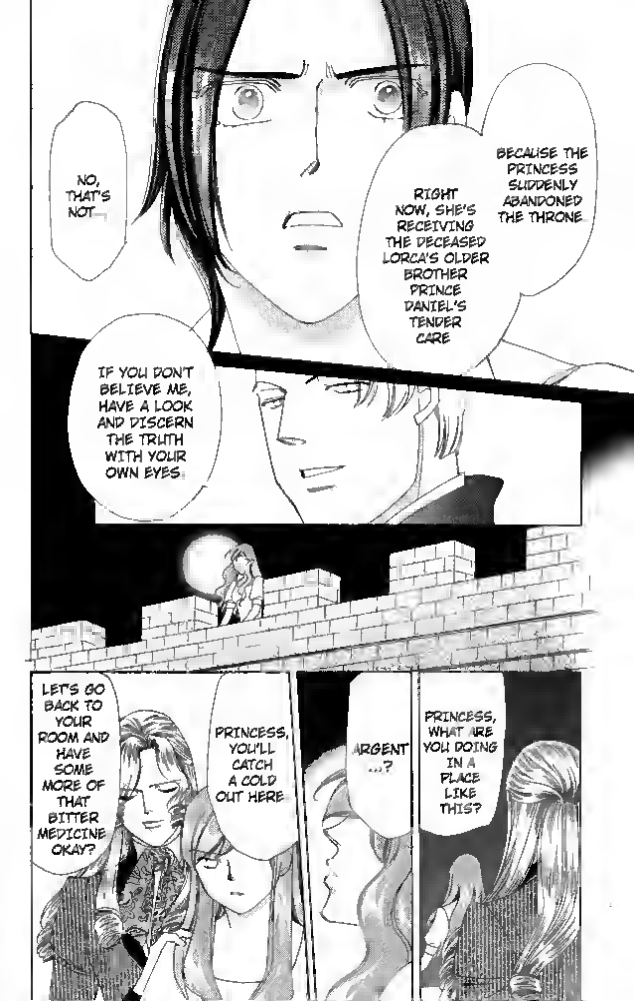
THE REAL MASTERMIND, YOU ALSO KNOW WELL, AS THE "FAR SOUTHERN NATION."
IT SEEMS THEY'RE CALLED "THE ALLIED NATIONS OF MORD" THESE DAYS.
BACK THEN WE DUBBED IT "THE FINAL PARADISE", BUT...
THEY WERE ONCE CALLED "CADOCAEUS", THE ONES WHO CREATED YOU BASILISKS.

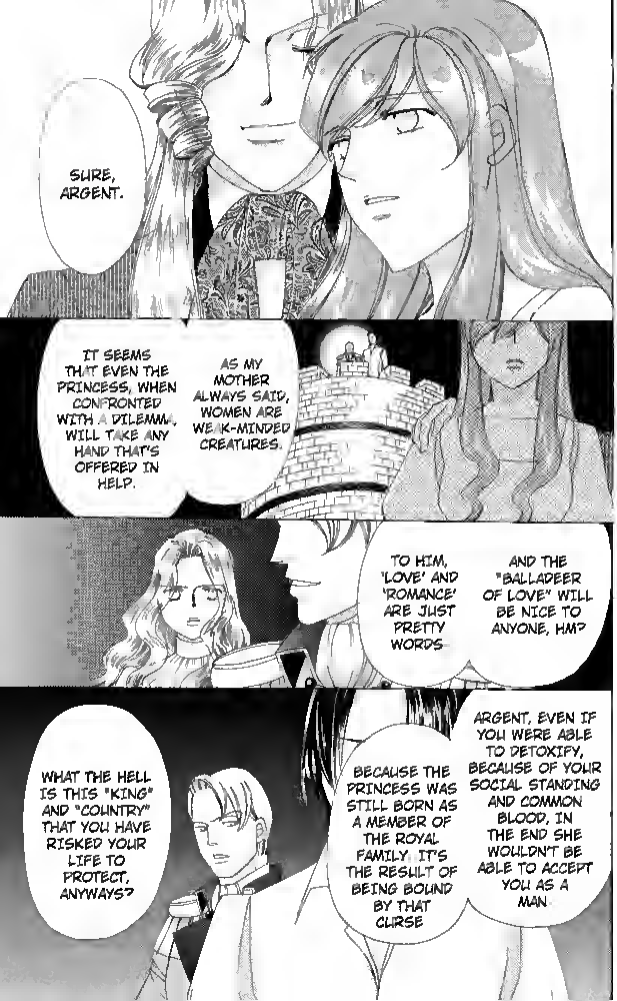
THEY SURELY NEVER EXPECTED THEIR CREATION WOULD BE LIKE YOU.
DANIEL-SAMA!
OPEN
THERE'S BEEN A BREAKTHROUGH REGARDING THE UNIDENTIFIED POISON USED TO KILL LORCA-SAMA!
APOTH-ECARY ZANTAK!
MY EXPERIENCE ISN'T THE BEST FOR THIS, BUT I TRIED TO SOMEHOW BREAK IT DOWN USING EVERY SOLVENT I COULD THINK OF.
WHEREUPON I DISCOVERED AN INGREDIENT IN COMMON WITH THE POISON RESPONSIBLE FOR THE ILLNESS IN NAVARA THAT TIME.
SO IT SEEMS THAT THE LARGE SOUTHERN NATION IS PARTICIPATING AS TRILDAN'S BACKING AS EXPECTED, HUH?
SO THAT MEANS HIS INTENTION IS PROBABLY NOT THE THRONE, BUT THE COUNTRY ITSELF.
IN OTHER WORDS ...?

...A PARADISE?
ISN'T IT A COUNTRY THAT FORCIBLY ABSORBS THE NEARBY COUNTRIES?!
ON BEHALF OF MY MOTHER COUNTRY
IN OTHER WORDS, ONCE HE ASCENDS THE THRONE, HE CAN HIJACK THE COUNTRY
I VOICED A SIMILAR OPINION.
I ALSO SAID MUCH THE SAME THING.
HOWEVER, ONCE YOU EXPERIENCE ILLNESS, COMING FACE-TO-FACE WITH DEATH MAKES YOU REALIZE WHAT'S REALLY IMPORTANT.
ALREADY NOW, THE TRADITION OF CLASS SYSTEM BY BLOOD LINEAGE HAS BEGUN TO GROW MOLD BECAUSE THE NUMBER OF PEOPLE CLINGING TO THAT WAY OF LIFE HAS INCREASED, UNNECESSARY CONFLICT IS UNAVOIDABLE
PEOPLE CONSIDER OUR ACTIONS A THREAT, BUT I ONLY WANT TO REBUILD THIS WORLD.

THAT IS, YOUR LIFE AND GOOD HEALTH... IT'S BECAUSE YOU AND YOUR FATHER KNOW VERY WELL THAT, IN THE FACE OF SICKNESS AND DEATH, PEOPLE, NO MATTER WHO, ARE EQUALLY POWERLESS, THAT I CHOSE YOU
IT'S THE PEOPLE WHO REFUSE TO ACCEPT IT THAT I INTEND TO WEED OUT.
YOU COULD SAY THAT I'M TAKING DRASTIC MEASURES
PRESENTLY, MY FATHER PEACEFULLY PASSED AWAY.
AFTER THAT, I STARTED TO HELP HIM OUT.
SHOULDN'T YOU BASILISKS ALSO FIND THIS POINT OF VIEW WELCOME?
ARGENT, WON'T YOU COOPERATE WITH US?
I REFUSE!
BEFORE FALLING INTO THE ENEMY'S HANDS--

I'D RATHER DIE!
STOP, ARGENT!
CORDA...
I'M FINE, IT'S JUST A SCRATCH
BASILISKS ARE TRULY FOOLISH CREATURES, EH?
AFTER EVERY-THING THAT'S HAPPENED, YOU STILL PLEDGE YOUR LOYALTY TO THE PRINCESS? YOU HAVE NO PLACE TO RETURN TO AND NO ONE YOU SHOULD BE PROTECTING, RIGHT?


NO, THAT'S NOT...
BECAUSE THE PRINCESS SUDDENLY ABANDONED THE THRONE.
RIGHT NOW, SHE'S RECEIVING THE DECEASED LORCA'S OLDER BROTHER PRINCE DANIEL'S TENDER CARE
IF YOU DON'T BELIEVE ME, HAVE A LOOK AND DISCERN THE TRUTH WITH YOUR OWN EYES.
LET'S GO BACK TO YOUR ROOM AND HAVE SOME MORE OF THAT BITTER MEDICINE OKAY?
PRINCESS, YOU'LL CATCH A COLD OUT HERE
ARGENT ...?
PRINCESS, WHAT ARE YOU DOING IN A PLACE LIKE THIS?


SURE, ARGENT.
IT SEEMS THAT EVEN THE PRINCESS, WHEN CONFRONTED WITH A DILEMMA, WILL TAKE ANY HAND THAT'S OFFERED IN HELP.
AS MY MOTHER ALWAYS SAID, WOMEN ARE WEAK-MINDED CREATURES.
TO HIM, 'LOVE' AND 'ROMANCE' ARE JUST PRETTY WORDS.
AND THE "BALLADEER OF LOVE" WILL BE NICE TO ANYONE, HM?
WHAT THE HELL IS THIS "KING" AND "COUNTRY" THAT YOU HAVE RISKED YOUR LIFE TO PROTECT, ANYWAYS?
BECAUSE THE PRINCESS WAS STILL BORN AS A MEMBER OF THE ROYAL FAMILY. IT'S THE RESULT OF BEING BOUND BY THAT CURSE
ARGENT, EVEN IF YOU WERE ABLE TO DETOXIFY, BECAUSE OF YOUR SOCIAL STANDING AND COMMON BLOOD, IN THE END SHE WOULDN'T BE ABLE TO ACCEPT YOU AS A MAN.

ARGENT,
WE WANT YOU TO LEAVE BEAZOL FOR THE SAKE OF MAINTAINING ORDER IN THE COUNTRY.
TO TELL THE TRUTH, YOU NEVER SHOULD HAVE DETOXIFIED YOUR BODY.
AS A BASILISK, YOU COULD HAVE ENTERED ENEMY TERRITORY ALONE TO TARGET THEIR LEADER'S LIFE.
BASILISKS ARE NOT THE ONLY ONES WHO SHOULD BE RESCUED FROM A LIFE BOUND BY THIS POINTLESS CURSE.
ARE YOU SURE YOU WON'T HELP US, APOTHECARY ARGENT?
JUST A LITTLE... I'M STARTING TO CONSIDER IT.

TAKE A SAMPLE OF THE INFECTIOUS DISEASE AND SUPPLIES WITH YOU ON YOUR JOURNEY TO MEET LULU.
MASTER!
I WILL GET LULU'S HELP AND RETURN AS SOON AS POSSIBLE!
EXCUSE ME, IS THERE ANYONE HERE?
I GUESS IT CAN'T BE HELPED WE'VE BEEN TRAVELING HARD FOR A FEW DAYS NOW... WE CAN AT LEAST GET PROVISIONS AND WATER IN THE NEARBY VILLAGE.
JEEZ, AT SUCH A CRUCIAL TIME?!
FALTER

WELL LOOK HERE, THERE'S A BANDIT ROAMING AROUND OUT HERE!
WHO ARE YOU?!
THUD
HELLO, ANYONE?
CASTORIA?
THAT COUNTRY DOESN'T EXIST ANYMORE.
YIELD
I'M JUST A TRAVELER PASSING THROUGH ON MY WAY TO CASTORIA.
TH-THAT'S NOT IT!
ALRIGHT, PUT YOUR HANDS IN THE AIR AND SURRENDER YOUR LUGGAGE!
EH?!
CH. 31 END

APOTHECARIUS ARGENTUM
CHAPTER 35: ESCAPE

WEST OF THE KINGDOM OF BEAZOL A VILLAGE IN THE VICINITY OF CASTORIA
PUT YOUR HANDS IN THE AIR AND SURRENDER YOUR LUGGAGE.
I'M GUESSING YOU'RE A MEMBER OF THE FACTION CAUSING TROUBLE IN THIS AREA LATELY.
YOU'VE GOT IT WRONG. I'M SODA, FROM BEAZOL.
AS I SAID BEFORE, I'M JUST PASSING THROUGH ON MY WAY TO CASTORIA!
THE COUNTRY CALLED CASTORIA NO LONGER EXISTS!
ONE MONTH AGO, THE BORDER COLLAPSED!
HEY, HOLD ON! HANDLING THAT LUGGAGE SO ROUGHLY
CRUNCH
I PROMISED MY MASTER THAT I'D DELIVER IT TO HIS MASTER. THE CONTENTS ARE VERY IMPORTANT!

Waaah!
JUST FIND OUT RIGHT NOW BY CALLING TO MY MASTER..!
WHAT NONSENSE ARE YOU SPOUTING?! DO YOU WANT TO GET YOUR HEAD BLOWN OFF??
WHAT ?
NO, NOT GOOD.
I RATHER THAN BEGGING FOR MY LIFE, I SHOULD BE DEFENDING THAT PACKAGE TO THE LAST.
BECAUSE I MADE A PROMISE TO MASTER.
ALRIGHT THEN, I GUESS YOU REALLY DO WANT TO DIE!
SLAM
I UNDER-STAND. I'LL GIVE MY LIFE IN EXCHANGE FOR KEEPING MY PROMISE TO THAT MAN.
PLEASE GIVE THAT BAG TO CASTORIA'S DOCTOR, LULU!

LULU? HOW DO YOU KNOW THAT NAME?
HEY, YOU GUYS, LET HIM GO!
IF YOU WERE WONDERING, HE'S LULU'S FORMER DISCIPLE.
FORMER DISCIPLE?
LONG TIME NO SEE, EH, KID?
YOU'RE THE RED-LIGHT-DISTRICT'S NUMBER ONE COURTESAN, AMETHYST!
POPOLA, COME HERE!
YOUR FORMER MANSERVANT SHOWED UP!
SODA?
POPOLA!

IF IT WERE LIKE ALWAYS, YOU WOULD GET OUT OF A PINCH BY SAYING "JUST CALL TO MY MASTER!" AND YET...
THEY REALLY DID A NUMBER ON YOU, HUH?
CASTORIA LITERALLY DECAYED.
WHAT ON EARTH HAPPENED SINCE THE LAST TIME I WAS HERE?
ALL SET
PIOR
BUT, HONESTLY, FOR A WHILE THERE, I DIDN'T KNOW HOW IT WAS GOING TO TURN OUT..
I CAN USUALLY SEE MEN'S INTENTIONS
FROM THE START IT WAS AN UNSTABLE COUNTRY, BUT, IN ADDITION TO THE BORDER, ORDER HAS COMPLETELY BROKEN DOWN. IT'S NOW A LAWLESS AREA.
IT'S TOO LATE NOW FOR MY OTHER COLLEAGUES IN THE ELECTION FOR THE NEXT LEADER, THEY HAVE ALREADY BECOME ADDICTED TO THE MEDICINAL ALCOHOL BROUGHT FROM THE SOUTH.
AFTER THE PREVIOUS LEADER, ZETTON, DIED, THE RATE OF LEAD AND SULFUR HEAVILY DECLINED AND THREW THE ECONOMY INTO A PANIC

DID... SOMETHING HAPPEN THERE?
THAT EXPLAINS WHY YOU CAN'T EVEN RECEIVE LETTERS FROM BEAZOL...
SOMETHING TERRIBLE HAPPENED...
THE DAY BEFORE HIS WEDDING CEREMONY TO PRINCESS PRIMULA, LORCA, PRINCE OF NAVARA, WAS ASSASSINATED!
BECAUSE POISON WAS USED, MASTER WAS FRAMED AS THE CRIMINAL!
WHAT NON-SENSE .
MASTER RETURNED HIS BODY TO NORMAL, BUT BECAUSE OF THE DIFFERENCE IN SOCIAL STATUS HE GAVE UP ON BEING WITH THE PRINCESS.
RECENTLY, HE'S RENEWED HIS CONVICTION TO SERVE THE COUNTRY TO THE BEST OF HIS ABILITY AS AN APOTHECARY JUST WHEN HE WAS ABOUT TO GET A REAL CHANCE, HE BECAME LIKE THIS.
JEEZ, I DON'T KNOW WHAT'S IN HIS HEAD!

I UNDERSTAND HOW YOU FEEL, BUT I CAN'T RESOLVE EVERYTHING AT ONCE.
SO, LULU, PLEASE HELP US! THE WAY IT STANDS NOW, MASTER IS GOING TO BE EXECUTED FOR TREASON!
HE ENTRUSTED ME WITH A SAMPLE IN ORDER TO GO SEEK LULU'S HELP.
EVEN SO, MASTER IS MORE WORRIED ABOUT THE EPIDEMIC IN KENT THAN HIS OWN PROBLEMS.
:
IN THE MEANTIME, YOU SHOULD REST A BIT, OKAY?
FOR NOW, IF YOU'LL GIVE ME THE SAMPLE, I'LL SEE WHAT I CAN FIND OUT ABOUT THAT FIRST
ON THE OTHER HAND, IN BEAZOL
WHAT ON EARTH IS HAPPENING TO THIS CONTINENT?
IF NOT THINGS LIKE THIS ARE HAPPENING NOT ONLY IN CASTORIA BUT ALSO STARTING TO OCCUR IN BEAZOL AS WELL...

IT'S TOO EARLY TO NAME TRILDAN THE NEXT KING ALREADY!
THE KING IS STILL ALIVE, AFTER ALL!
BUT HE'S MERELY A LIVING CORPSE, RIGHT?
EVEN IF HE REGAINS CONSCIOUSNESS, WILL HE BE ABLE TO GOVERN THE COUNTRY?
CALLING HIS MAJESTY A LIVING CORPSE IS DISRESPECTFUL!
REGARDLESS, IT'S THE TRUTH.
ARGON, NO MATTER HOW LONG WE TRY, WE WON'T REACH AN ACCORD ON THIS MATTER, AND THE ABSENCE OF A KING IS MAKING EVERYONE UNEASY.
PERHAPS IT WOULD BE BEST TO SET A DEADLINE?
THEN, LET'S SETTLE ON THIS.
THAT, IF THE KING DOES NOT AWAKEN WITHIN ONE WEEK, TRILDAN-SAMA WILL BE MADE KING.
AT THIS POINT, WHY DON'T YOU JUST SNATCH THE THRONE AGAINST THE ODDS?
TAP
TAP
TAP

PRESSURE IS ALSO COMING FROM GORIEL-SAMA OF KENT ABOUT WHETHER YOU'LL STILL BE CROWNED.
STARTING WITH KENT, THE SURROUNDING COUNTRIES WILL ACCEPT TRILLDAN-SAMA AS KING.
THE KING IS UNCONSCIOUS AND THE PRINCESS IS HAVING A MENTAL AND PHYSICAL BREAKDOWN
IF WE DO SOMETHING AGGRESSIVE, THE RESULT WILL BE A REPEAT OF THE SAME THING AS THE PREVIOUS COUP D'ETAT ATTEMPT
I'LL DO THINGS MY OWN WAY!
IF YOU CAN'T MAKE A DECISION, WE...!
IN THAT CASE, IT WOULD BE GOOD TO BURY THE PRO-PRIMULA FACTION MEMBERS TOGETHER.
IN THE WAKE OF YOU SNATCHING THE THRONE, BEAZOL SEEMS TO BE IN INTERNAL CONFLICT.
DOES HE REALLY HAVE ANY INTENTION TO BECOME KING?
WHAT ON EARTH IS HE THINKING?

FOLLOWING THE DEATH OF PRINCE LORCA, SHOULDN'T YOU BE MORE WORRIED ABOUT THE FUTURE OF NAVARA THAN BEAZOL? WHAT ABOUT THAT?
NAVARA'S SECOND PRINCE, DANIEL-SAMA.
OR PERHAPS RATHER THAN THE THRONE THIS CHAOS IS YOUR ORIGINAL PURPOSE?
FOR NOW, I WANT TO TO DEVOTE MYSELF TO PRINCESS PRIMULA
AS FOR NAVARA, IT HAS THE CELEBRATED "GOD OF WAR," ADONA -ANIUE
BY NATURE, I HAVE A "WOMEN OVER COUNTRY" FRIVOLOUS ATTITUDE.
THANKFULLY, IT HAS IMPROVED. SHE'S EVEN RECOVERING HER TRUE CHARACTER. RECENTLY, SHE'S PROGRESSED TO GOING FOR WALKS AND WANTING TIME TO HERSELF.
AND? HOW IS THE PRINCESS'S CONDITION?
I GUESS IT'S CUSHY, BEING THE "BALLADEER OF LOVE," EH?

I SEE. IF THAT'S HOW IT IS, IT MIGHT BE BEST TO FORTIFY THE PRINCESS'S PERSONAL GUARD.
IF SOMEONE IS TRYING TO FORCIBLY HASTEN THINGS, THE PRINCESS'S LIFE IS EVEN SOMETHING THEY'D BE AIMING FOR.
ACTUALLY, I'M LOOKING FOR THAT PRINCESS RIGHT NOW, COINCIDENTALLY...
A SECRET PLACE?
PERHAPS... THE PRINCESS MIGHT HAVE A "SECRET PLACE"...
IT'S SOMETHING I HEARD ABOUT WHEN I WAS A CHILD. HER SECRET PLACE WHERE IT SEEMS SHE WENT WHEN SHE WANTED TO BE ALONE.
IT MUST BE SOMEWHERE INSIDE THE PALACE, BUT NO ONE KNOWS EXACTLY WHERE.
HEARING SUCH A STORY ABOUT THE PRINCESS FROM YOU IS UNEXPECTED.
LONG AGO THERE WAS A TIME WHEN WE HAD A GOOD RELATIONSHIP.

BY ANY CHANCE, COULD HE, REGARDING THE PRINCESS...?
Creak
SLAM
I ALREADY DECIDED NOT TO COME HERE, AND YET...
BUT, WITH THIS, IT'S REALLY THE END, RIGHT?
LOCK
PRINCESS PRIMULA!

AT THE RECENT COUNCIL MEETING, THEY CAME TO THE DECISION THAT, IN THE EVENT THAT THE KING DOESN'T AWAKEN WITHIN 1 WEEK, TRILDAN WILL BE ENTHRONED.
PRINCESS,
I'M SORRY
THANK GOODNESS. IT'S BEST THAT YOU NOT GO FOR A WALK OUTSIDE OF THE CASTLE FOR NOW.
I SEE...
NO, I'M GOING TO SEE THIS THROUGH TO THE VERY END.
PLEASE GO AHEAD AND RETURN TO YOUR COUNTRY.
IN THIS SITUATION, THE INTERNAL DISCORD IN BEAZOL IS CERTAIN TO SPREAD TO NAVARA AS WELL
FOR A WHILE, AFFECTED BY THE REALITY OF LORCA AND ARGENT'S DEATHS, I LOST MY WAY, BUT I'M OKAY NOW.
DANIEL-SAMA,

I, AS A COOK, WILL CREATE A MENU THAT WILL MAKE HIM WANT TO WAKE UP QUICKLY.
THAT'S RIGHT. BECAUSE I, TOO, AS AN APOTHECARY, WILL DO MY BEST FOR THE PURPOSE OF AWAKENING HIS MAJESTY.
BESIDES, THERE IS STILL HOPE THAT HIS MAJESTY WILL CONTINUE LIVING.
EVERYONE, THANK YOU.
ARGON, APOTHECARY ZANTAK, GARANA.
I WILL LEAVE THE RECENT EVENTS TO RUN THEIR COURSE.
BUT, ULTIMATELY, THE COUNTRY IS THE ONE TO DECIDE THE KING

FORGIVE ME, FATHER
REGARDLESS OF MY MOMENTARY DELUSION, I BLURTED OUT MY ABDICATION OF THE THRONE
RIGHT NOW, THE MEANING OF WHAT DELMOBETTE -SAMA SAID, "WOMEN ARE NOT SUITED TO BE KING,"
AND CLARIS'S FEELING OF HAVING MADE A MISTAKE, I UNDERSTAND THEM WELL.
I WONDER IF I SHOULD HAVE EVER BEEN BORN AT ALL.
IT'S NOT LIKE THAT AT ALL.
THE PRINCESS'S BIRTH WAS VERY JOYOUS FOR HIS MAJESTY.
ARGON.
I'M AN IDIOT SPEAKING TO AN UNCONSCIOUS PERSON, HUH?
BUT, I THINK IT'S POSSIBLE.
HIS MAJESTY HAS ALWAYS HAD A HARD TIME WAKING UP, AFTER ALL.

DO KNOW KNOW THE HISTORY OF THE BELL LOCATED JUST OUTSIDE THE CASTLE WALLS?
IT WAS BUILT TO WAKE UP HIS MAJESTY AT TIMES WHEN AN EMERGENCY OCCURRED IN THE COUNTRY.
THE LAST TIME IT RANG WAS WHEN THE QUEEN PASSED AWAY.
WHEN HE WAS YOUNG, JUST GETTING HIM OUT OF BED WAS DIFFICULT
ARGON, YOU ALSO WORKED SUFFICIENTLY, IT'S ENOUGH ALREADY.
IF TRILDAN BECOMES KING, I DON'T KNOW WHAT WILL BECOME OF FATHER AND I, AND YOU, OUR ADVISOR.
EVEN NOW, I AM SORRY FOR PARTICIPATING IN A COUP D'ETAT ATTEMPT.
IT'S AN OLD STORY, ALL BUT FORGOTTEN, BUT,
I WAS THE ONE WHO LEAD THE FIRST COUP D'ETAT ATTEMPT IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING HIS MAJESTY'S CORONATION.
CROWNED AT A YOUNG AGE, HIS MAJESTY WAS AN INEXPERIENCED KING, AND SO..

BUT HIS MAJESTY, FAR FROM IMPRISONING ME, INSTEAD AGAINST STRONG OBJECTION APPOINTED ME AN ADVISOR...
IT WAS VERY WELL PLAYED.
AND SO, EVEN NOW THERE ARE STILL MANY THINGS I WANT TO ADVISE HIS MAJESTY ABOUT.
I WOULD RATHER HAVE HEARD A STORY LIKE THIS FROM FATHER...
THESE DAYS, RE-TELLING OLD HORROR STORIES ISN'T SOMETHING I REALLY WANT TO DO.
BUT, IF YOU'RE OKAY WITH HEARING IT FROM ME, WHILE WE'RE WAITING FOR 1 WEEK, LET'S TELL STORIES.

ON THE OTHER HAND, A VILLAGE IN THE VICINITY OF CASTORIA
COMPARED TO BEFORE, YOU SEEM TO HAVE BECOME TALLER AND MORE STURDY, SODA.
POPOLA, CERTAINLY, COMPARED TO BEFORE...
BECAME MORE WOMANLY.
ER, NO, THAT IS...
WHERE WERE YOU LOOKING JUST NOW?
BUT, PERHAPS THE DECAY OF THIS COUNTRY ALSO OCCURRED ABRUPTLY LIKE THIS.
I WANTED TO IMPROVE THIS COUNTRY WITH MY OWN HANDS. IT'S REALLY A PITY.
THE WAY THEY ARE CONSTANTLY DIVIDING, DISAPPEARING, AND SO ON. RATHER THAN SAYING THEY ARE MADE OF STONE, IT'S MORE ACCURATE TO DESCRIBE COUNTRIES AS LIVING THINGS.
I WONDER IF THINGS WOULD BE DIFFERENT IF CASTORIA WERE A MONARCHY.

I WONDER ABOUT THAT. IF YOU CONSIDER BEAZOL AND NAVARA..
IF POSSIBLE, I WOULD LIKE TO FOUND AN ENTIRELY NEW COUNTRY MYSELF!
ALRIGHT! I'LL JOIN YOU!
I'M CONFIDENT THAT YOU AND I WILL STEADILY INCREASE THE POPULATION!
.....
I DIDN'T MEAN IT LIKE THAT!!
I have confidence in our ability to recruit others!
WELL, IF IT'S SODA, I THINK IT WOULD BE OKAY FOR YOU TO BE THE FIRST CITIZEN OF MY COUNTRY, HOWEVER...
WHEN THE TROUBLE IN BEAZOL IS RESOLVED, RIGHT?
IT'S A PROMISE! IF YOU ACT RECKLESSLY WITH DEATH IN YOUR EYES AGAIN, I'LL KILL YOU!

NO, IT'S FINE!!
OOPS, PARDON ME, IT LOOKS LIKE I'VE INTRUDED. Take your time.
SODA, A BIT ABOUT THE EQUIPMENT AND THE SAMPLE...
ARGENT HAD THE RIGHT IDEA.
MASTER FOUND OUT SOMETHING ABOUT THE SOURCE OF THE EPIDEMIC,
BUT WHEN HE WENT TO THE CASTLE TO REPORT IT, THEY WERE MORE INTERESTED IN EXILING HIM.
BY LAYERING THE GLASS, INVISIBLE THINGS CAN BE SEEN MAGNIFIED.
WHAT DO YOU MEAN?
BESIDES THAT, HOW IS ARGENT'S BODY? IS EVERYTHING ALRIGHT?
THOSE PEOPLE ARE ALWAYS DOING SOMETHING STUPID.

AH, BUT...
NO!
YOU HAVEN'T HEARD ABOUT IT? THE TOLL THE DETOXIFICATION TAKES ON THE BODY IS THE WORST, EVEN TO THE POINT OF SHORTENING ONE'S LIFE.
SURE, LEAVE THE REST TO ME.
AMETHYST, IT'S OKAY IF I LEAVE YOU IN CHARGE HERE FOR A SHORT WHILE, RIGHT?
LET'S GO TO BEAZOL RIGHT AWAY.
IT'S JUST THAT I'M WORRIED ABOUT THE CHILDREN AND THE ELDERLY ALONG THE WAY. WHILE YOU'RE AT IT, I WANT YOU TO SEE WITH YOUR OWN EYES THE STATE OF AFFAIRS OUT THERE. THIS IS AN ORDER.
EH? BUT, NEE-SAN...
POPOLA, TAKE THE INNKEEPER AND JADE WITH YOU AND GO TO BEAZOL WITH SODA.

UNDER-STOOD!
THEN, TAKE CARE, OKAY?
YOU GUYS TOO, STAY SAFE.
WELL, THEN, LET'S DEPART FOR BEAZOL!
NEE-SAN, THAT GIRL AND THEM, YOU SENT THEM AWAY ON PURPOSE, RIGHT?
CLATTER CLATTER CLATTER
IT'S BECAUSE, IN AN EMERGENCY, I CAN ENTRUST THE FUTURE TO THOSE KIDS.
CLATTER CLATTER CLATTER
YEAH... EVEN I DON'T KNOW WHAT WILL HAPPEN FROM HERE ON OUT.
BUT POPOLA AND SODA ARE STILL YOUNG.

1 WEEK LATER; BEAZOL CASTLE
THE PERIOD OF 1 WEEK HAS PASSED ALREADY?
IT'S ALL RIGHT.
PRINCESS ... I APOLOGIZE FOR MY FAILURE.
IF MEDICINE IS NO GOOD,
THINKING TO ROUSE HIM USING SOMETHING EXTREMELY NOISY, I TRIED CALLING THE TRAVELING ENTERTAINERS!
LONG TIME NO SEE, PRINCESS PRIMULA!
HOW HAVE YOU BEEN!?

THERE IS ONE MORE WITH YOU?
THIS GUY IS A NEW RECRUIT.
NICE TO MEET YOU.
HE CAN'T SPEAK, HE IS A MUTE.
I SEE.
THEN, IT'S JUST A HANDSHAKE, BUT . I'M PLEASED TO MEET YOU.
.....
ENDING WITH AN ALL-OUT BANQUET MIGHT BE CHIC
THEN, RIGHT AWAY!
TRILDAN-SAMA, IS IT OKAY?
TO ALLOW THEM TO INVITE ENTERTAINERS AND SO ON INTO THE CASTLE.

AFTER A FEW HOURS THEY WILL BE DRIVEN OUT OF THE CASTLE.
THAT MUCH, I'LL PERMIT.
AREN'T I ALSO A FORMER ENTER-TAINER?
P-PARDON ME!
THAT'S TRUE. THE FAMILY OUSTED FROM THE THRONE WILL BECOME NOTHING BUT SEEDS OF CONFLICT.
AND AT THE WORST, THE PRINCESS AND THE KING WILL PROBABLY BE IMPRISONED FOR LIFE OR EXECUTED.
I WILL ANNOUNCE MY ASCENT TO THE THRONE TOMORROW.
BY THE WAY, THE MESSANGERS FROM KENT ARE STILL COMING, BUT...
THIS TIME SEEMS DIFFERENT. OUR HANDS ARE TIED, AND
I'M THINKING IT'S RELATED TO THE CASES OF ILLNESS, BUT...
ENOUGH.

I RECALL THAT WHILE DEMOBETTE-SAMA WATCHED ON, FROWNING,
UNCLE TIGASON WOULD PRETEND TO BE AN ENTERTAINER AND PUT ON A PERFORMANCE FOR ME.
IF I THINK HARD, THERE WERE TIMES LIKE THIS THEN TOO.

BUT EVERYONE HAS ALREADY COMPLETELY DISAPPEARED.
CLARISSA, DELMOBETTE -SAMA,
UNCLE TIGASON,
LORCA,
AND THEN, EVEN ARGENT...
AND THEN, AFTER A FEW HOURS, WE TOO...
CHEW

THE SUN HAS ALREADY SET COMPLETELY, HUH?
THANK YOU VERY MUCH, EVERYONE, FOR AN ENJOYABLE BANQUET.
PRINCESS! NOW IS THE TIME, THIS IS YOUR CHANCE!
CHANGE PLACES WITH THIS GUY AND ESCAPE FROM THE CASTLE!
HE IS ONLY A BIT TALLER THAN YOU, AND HIS PHYSIQUE ISN'T MUCH DIFFERENT.
SO THAT WAS THE TRUE PURPOSE OF THIS BANQUET?

IF HE BECOMES KING, YOU'LL NEVER SEE THE LIGHT OF DAY AGAIN!
REGARDLESS, AS THE PRINCESS OF THE ENTIRE COUNTRY, FOR ME TO RUN AWAY ON THEM!?
DON'T THINK SO LITTLE OF ME!
I'LL JUST SAY IT, SINCE IT'S ALREADY THE END.
HONESTLY, YOU GUYS DISAPP-OINTED ME.
YOUR PERFOR-MANCE, OF COURSE.
ARGON, CARLI,
THANKS TO YOUR INCOMPE-TENCY AS RETAINERS, I LOST THE THRONE
PRINCE DANIEL HAS A ONE-TRACK MIND,
AND GARANA'S COOKING IS GETTING BORING.
AND ZANTAK TOO, AS AN APOTHECARY YOU'RE PATHETIC. YOU CAN'T POSSIBLY COMPARE TO ARGENT.
PRINC-ESS...

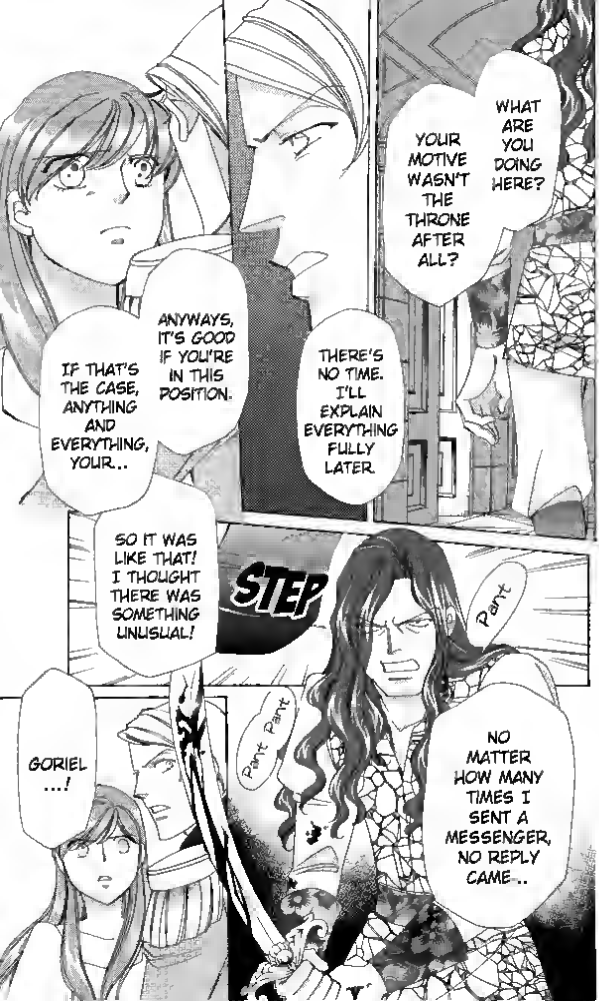
GO !!
WELL, DISAPPEAR! THIS IS AN ORDER!
I DON'T EVEN WANT TO SEE YOUR FACES ANYMORE.
SO YOU'RE DISMISSED AS OF NOW!
VERY WELL, JUST ONE LAST THING... IS IT ALRIGHT IF WE RING THAT BELL?
FOR HIS MAJESTY'S SAKE.
DO AS YOU LIKE.
IF TRILDAN BECOMES KING, THE PRINCESS'S ASSOCIATES WILL ALSO PROBABLY NOT BE ALLOWED TO LIVE FREELY.
IN ORDER NOT TO INVOLVE ANYONE, SHE WENT AS FAR AS TO CRUELLY THRUST US AWAY.
NO MATTER THE CIRCUMSTANCES, THAT WAS... TERRIBLE...

DING DONG
THANK YOU, ARGON...
CLATTER
FATH-ER...

TRILDAN!
"SUICIDE BEFORE EXECUTION," THAT'S SO LIKE YOU.
SO THAT'S HOW IT IS.
SHATTER
IT'S FOR AN EMERGENCY. WHAT IS YOUR BUSINESS HERE?
Crush
BEFORE LONG, I WILL BECOME KING. IF THAT HAPPENS, YOU PEOPLE WILL HAVE TO BE DISPOSED OF.
HOWEVER, I DON'T WANT TO SHED THE BLOOD OF RELATIVES. THEREFORE, I'VE COME TO PROPOSE A WAY TO AVOID THIS.
WOLFSBANE, HUH?
WHERE ON EARTH DID YOU HIDE A DANGEROUS THING LIKE THIS?

PRINCESS,
WON'T YOU BECOME MY BRIDE?
ARE YOU SERIOUS?
I AM. IF WE DO THIS, EVERYTHING WILL BE RESOLVED PEACEFULLY.
NO WAY!
IF IT MEANS SUBMITTING TO YOUR WILL, I'LL TAKE DEATH INSTEAD PLEASE.
DO YOU STILL NOT UNDERSTAND!?
NO MATTER HOW MANY CHANCES THERE WERE TO CONSIGN YOU TO OBLIVION, WHY WAS IT THAT YOU ALWAYS JUST BARELY MADE IT OUT ALIVE!?

SLAP
SINCE LONG AGO, I'VE BEEN IN LO...
SINCE LONG AGO. . YOU'VE ALWAYS BEEN FORCE-FUL.
YOU DON'T CONSIDER PEOPLE'S FEELINGS AT ALL.
I HATE YOU...!
I'M SAYING THIS FOR YOUR SAKE.
PRINCE DANIEL SEEMS TO HAVE NOTICED TOO LATE, BUT SOONER OR LATER, THIS COUNTRY, LIKE THE OTHER COUNTRIES ABSORBED BY THE SOUTHERN NATION, WILL BE WEEDED OUT.
LIKE WHAT'S HAPPENING IN KENT RIGHT NOW!
THE EPIDEMIC IN KENT IS THE SOUTHERN NATION'S DOING?


WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?
YOUR MOTIVE WASN'T THE THRONE AFTER ALL?
THERE'S NO TIME. I'LL EXPLAIN EVERYTHING FULLY LATER.
ANYWAYS, IT'S GOOD IF YOU'RE IN THIS POSITION.
IF THAT'S THE CASE, ANYTHING AND EVERYTHING, YOUR...
SO IT WAS LIKE THAT! I THOUGHT THERE WAS SOMETHING UNUSUAL!
STEP
Pant
Pant Pant
NO MATTER HOW MANY TIMES I SENT A MESSENGER, NO REPLY CAME...
GORIEL ...!

THE MEDICINAL ALCOHOL YOU GAVE ME WASN'T EFFECTIVE AT ALL!
LOOK! I'VE ALSO GOTTEN ILL, WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO ABOUT THIS!?
SON OF A BITCH! EVERYONE IS SCREWING WITH ME!
I SHOULD HAVE WARNED YOU THAT YOU MIGHT GET ILL, BUT,
BESIDES, IN THE FACE OF ILLNESS, WHETHER KING OR COMMONER, PEOPLE, NO MATTER WHO, ARE EQUALLY POWERLESS
!

FATHER!
DAMN ARGON... THE RINGING OF THAT BELL IS INGRAINED IN MY MIND AS SAD THING. BUT, IN THE END, IT LOOKS LIKE I HAVE SOME IMPORTANT WORK TO FINISH.
IT'S A PITY, BUT YOU ARE A BIT TOO LATE.
THE CITIZENS AND THE SURROUNDING COUNTRIES, HAVING GIVEN UP ON YOU, CHOSE ME AS KING. IT'S A MISERABLE SITUATION, RIGHT?
NOT DYING HONORABLY IS SOMETHING I'VE ACCEPTED FROM THE BEGINNING.
BUT, IT'S STILL NOT TOO LATE.

PRINCE TRILDAN,
BEFORE I PASS AWAY, I'LL GIVE YOU THIS ADVICE.
THE PERSON STANDING ABOVE OTHERS WILL BE VERY HATED.
IN EVERY GENERATION, IT'S THE SAME. ALTHOUGH A GROUP WITH DISPARATE THOUGHTS WILL COME TOGETHER, THE WAY TO RESOLVE IT QUICKLY IS TO USE A COMMON ENEMY.
THEREFORE, I THINK YOU ALREADY KNOW, BUT PEOPLE'S HEARTS ARE EASILY INFLUENCED AND EASILY SWAYED. IN SHORT, SOMEDAY YOU ALSO..
BE SILENT!!

WH... WHY... DIDN'T YOU AVOID IT...!?
SLIP
FATHER!
WELL, IF YOU'RE THE ONE TO BECOME KING, IT'S GOOD! IF IT'S THE CURRENT YOU, IT'S ADEQUATE. NO MATTER WHAT, YOU CAN DO IT.
EVEN IF THEY DON'T HAVE FAITH IN YOU, AS THE YOUNG HERO THAT TOOK DOWN THE SYMBOL OF EVIL, THE KING OF BEAZOL, THE PEOPLE WILL NOT ABANDON YOU.
WITH THIS, YOU WILL TRULY INHERIT THE THRONE.

FATHER ...!
FOR A LONG TIME, YOU'VE BEEN DRAGGING ON FOR ME... PRINCESS.
PRINCESS PRIMULA, YOU'VE DONE WELL UNTIL NOW. YOU ARE MY PRIDE AND JOY.
FATHER ...!
SHOVE
FROM NOW ON, PLEASE LIVE AS YOU WANT TO!
PRIN-CESS, THIS WAY!
FATHER!
RUSTLE
RUSTLE
RUSTLE

WHO ON EARTH IS THIS NOBLE-MAN?
RUN
RUN
TRILDAN-SAMA, WHAT WAS THE UPROAR JUST NOW?
SOMEONE KILLED THE GUARDS OUTSIDE...!
RUN
RUN
THE THRONE IS ALREADY IN MY GRASP. IT'S FINE IF WE DON'T GO AFTER HER THE PRINCESS WILL LIKELY NEVER RETURN AGAIN.
THEN, WE'LL PURSUE THE PRINCESS RIGHT AWAY!!
GORIEL OF KENT, HE BARGED IN TO DISPOSE OF THE PRINCESS.
THE KING OF BEAZOL AWOKE AND SACRIFICED HIMSELF TO SAVE HER. AND THEN THE PRINCESS FLED THE CASTLE.
RATHER THAN THAT, IF WE'RE TO SUBDUE THE NOW-KINGLESS COUNTRY OF KENT AS SOON AS POSSIBLE, WE URGENTLY NEED TO BEGIN THE CORONATION!

FWOOSH
FWOOSH
IF YOU SAY THINGS LIKE THAT, YOU WILL ALSO BE IN DANGER.
IT'S ENOUGH ALREADY. WITH THE TRANSFER OF THE THRONE TO TRILDAN, I'M NO LONGER A PRINCESS.
WHO ARE YOU?
THAT I CAN'T SAY, BUT I AM YOUR ALLY, PRINCESS.
EH?
BESIDES... THE SILVER APOTHECARY IS STILL ALIVE.
WHAT ARE YOU SAYING? EVEN AS A CITIZEN, THERE IS STILL SOMETHING YOU SHOULD BE DOING.
IF YOU WANT TO SEE PROOF, YOU NEED TO GET OUT OF HERE FIRST.
HOWEVER, PERHAPS NOT IN THE PRINCESS'S DESIRED FORM, BUT...
THERE WAS NO CORPSE, RIGHT? BECAUSE HE'S STILL ALIVE.

BUT, AFTER ALL, RUNNING AWAY IS NO GOOD!
THIS IS NOT FLEEING.
IT'S FOR THE SAKE OF UPHOLDING THE DECEASED KING AND ARGON-SAMA'S DYING WISHES.
WHAT HAPPENED TO ARGON?
ARGON-SAMA.. WHEN HE WAS RINGING THE DETERIORATED BELL, THE SUPPORTS GAVE WAY AND HE FELL TO HIS DEATH.
PLEASE DO THE RIGHT THING!
YOU ARE MY PRIDE AND JOY.
FROM NOW ON, PLEASE LIVE AS YOU LIKE.

UNDER-
STOOD.
WELL
THEN,
THIS
WAY.
YOU
OVER
THERE,
WHO
ARE
YOU?
IT'S THE
CASTLE
GUARDS!
BAM
BAM
BAM
NOW,
WHILE
YOU
HAVE
THE
CHANCE,
HOW
HAVE
YOU
BEEN!?
RUN
THROUGH
HERE.

I WON'T RETURN AGAIN.
IF I PASS THROUGH HERE, I WILL NOT BE A PRINCESS OR ANYTHING ANYMORE, SIMPLY A LONE GIRL.
I DON'T HAVE ANYONE OUT THERE, I'M ALL ALONE.
I'VE GOT YOU NOW, PRINCESS PRIMULA!!

PRINCE DANIEL!?
YOU BROKE OUT OF JAIL BEFORE WE COULD COME FOR YOU.
WELL, IT'S TO BE EXPECTED, GIVEN YOUR VAST EXPERIENCE SNEAKING OUT OF THE CASTLE.
THAT'S BECAUSE I WAS HELPED BY—
CLATTER CLATTER CLATTER
WE'LL TALK LATER.
PRINCESS, YOU NEED TO LEAVE THE COUNTRY.

CLATTER
CLATTER
EVERY-ONE...
DO YOU UNDERSTAND? THAT IF YOU DO SOMETHING LIKE THIS, YOU WON'T BE ABLE TO RETURN TO THIS COUNTRY EVER AGAIN?
IT'S UNLIKELY FOR MY CAREER TO REACH HIGHER THAN THIS.
BESIDES, THERE ARE STILL MANY THINGS I HAVE TO TEACH THE PRINCESS.
BY NATURE I'M A ROUGE, A GRASS WITHOUT ROOTS.
I'M THE SAME.
EVERYONE WILL FOLLOW YOU, PRINCESS. WE ARE PRE-PARED.
APOTHE-CARY ZANTAK SENT A VARIETY OF MEDICINE AND THIS MESSAGE:
"SINCE MY APPRENTICES AND PATIENTS ARE STILL IN THE COUNTRY, I CAN'T ACCOM-PANY YOU, BUT PLEASE TAKE CARE OF YOUR HEALTH."

EVERYONE, THANK YOU...
FOR THE TIME BEING, IT'S BEST TO TURN TOWARDS CASTORIA.
I WANT TO MEET UP WITH SODA WHO WAS SENT TO LILLI'S SIDE.
HE'S STILL ALIVE.
PERHAPS NOT IN THE PRINCESS'S DESIRED FORM, BUT...
I WONDER WHAT ON EARTH HE MEANT BY THAT.
WHAT HAPPENED TO ARGENT'S BODY?

A FEW DAYS LATER; A VILLAGE IN THE VICINITY OF BEAZOL
WHAT DID YOU SAY?
MASTER WAS EXECUTED?
IT'S A TRULY UNFORTUNATE STORY, BUT THE KING OF BEAZOL ALSO PASSED AWAY.
NOW THAT TRILDAN-SAMA HAS ASCENDED THE THRONE, THE PRINCESS, DANIEL-SAMA, AND THEIR CLOSE ASSOCIATES ARE UNACCOLINTED FOR
WE WERE ONE STEP TOO LATE ..
WHAT HAPPENED TO THE COUNTRY OF KENT?
AFTER THE DEATH OF GORIEL-SAMA, TRILDAN-SAMA TOOK OVER BUT THE ILLNESS IS SPREADING AND THE COUNTRY IS ALMOST IN SHAMBLES
AT A TIME LIKE THIS, IF ONLY WE HAD MASTER ..!
BUT, RECENTLY, AN UNUSUAL RUMOR HAS BEEN SPREADING.

A SILVER-HAIRED APOTHECARY HAS BEEN SPOTTED IN VARIOUS PLACES
HE'S SAID TO BE TREATING THE ILL.
IT'S SURELY MASTER!
THAT SOUNDS LIKE HIM! HE MUST HAVE SURVIVED SOMEHOW!
YEAH... I WANT TO BELIEVE, BUT I THINK IT MUST BE MISTAKEN.
BECAUSE THAT PERSON IS SELECTING PATIENTS.
TO THOSE WHO DESERVE TO BE RESCUED, HE GIVES MEDICINE,
AND TO THOSE WHO DON'T, HE BESTOWS POISON.
I CAN'T BELIEVE THAT HE'S THE SAME PERSON AS APOTHECARY ARGENT...
CH.35/FND

I FINALLY FOUND THE PRINCESS!
ARGON-SAMA!
PRINCESS, WHY DOES IT SEEM THAT YOU ARE ALWAYS SNEAKING OUT OF THE CASTLE?
IN THE WOODS A BIT WEST OF HERE.
WHERE WAS SHE THIS TIME?
THANK GOODNESS YOU'RE SAFE, PRINCESS.
EVERY DAY, IT'S MANNERS INSTRUCTION FROM CARL! AND LECTURES FROM ARGON-SAMA. I'M SICK OF IT ALREADY.
FATHER IS ALWAYS ABSENT DEALING WITH MATTERS OF STATE.
THE CASTLE IS SMOTHERING ME WITH BOREDOM
HOWEVER..
IF THAT'S ALL, IT'S FINE THANKS TO CARBEAU'S SWORD INSTRUCTION, I CAN PROTECT MYSELF BY MYSELF.
HOWEVER, PRINCESS, EVEN IF IT'S A JOKE TO YOU, YOU WILL BE THE NEXT KING. IN SPITE OF THIS, YOU KEEP GOING OUT ALONE...

FOR EXAMPLE, A GIRL LIVING IN A PEACEFUL FARMING VILLAGE SOMEWHERE...
AW, JEEZ, YOU GUYS ARE SO ANNOY-ING!
I'M FED UP WITH BEING A PRINCESS! IN MY NEXT REINCARNATION I WANT TO BE BORN AS A COMMON GIRL.
APOTHECARIUS ARGENTUM
CHAPTER 36:
THE INVISIBLE CROWN

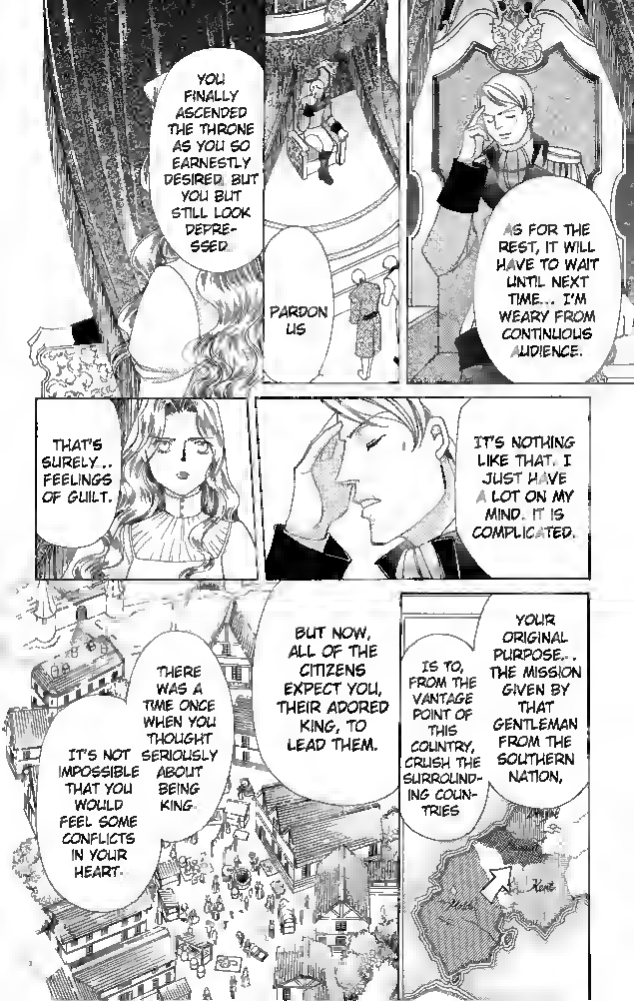
DAISY...
DAISY ...?
WAKE UP ALREADY!
SLEEPING BEAUTY, WHERE DO YOU THINK YOU ARE?
FLIP
YUBELLA .. WHY ARE YOU HERE?
YOU ARE STILL HALF ASLEEP
IT'S BEEN A WHILE NOW THAT YOU'VE BEEN LIVING HERE AS "DAISY," RIGHT?
COME TO THINK OF IT...
AFTER THAT, I ESCAPED FROM THE CASTLE WITH EVERYONE...
BEFORE TURNING TO CASTORIA, FOR THE SAKE OF CONCEALING OURSELVES, WE CAME TO YUBELLA'S PEAR PLANTATION

YUBELLA, THE PRINCESS JUST LOST HER FATHER, HAD THE THRONE SNATCHED FROM HER BY HER COUSIN TRILDAN AND ESCAPED FROM THE CASTLE.
REGARDLESS, TO SPEAK TO HER LIKE THAT...
I KNOW THAT.
SLAM
BUT SHE'S A FORMER PRINCESS, RIGHT? JUST A FREELOADER WHO WILL BE BURDENING US UNTIL GOD KNOWS WHEN!
I'M SORRY, PRINCESS...
NO.
I'M IN YOUR DEBT. I HAVE TO PAY BACK THE FAVOR WITH MY BODY, AT LEAST.
GOOD MORNING, PRINCESS!
YOU TWO, FROM NOW ON SHE'S "DAISY," RIGHT?

YEAH. I'M SORRY FOR BEING ABSENT FOR A WHILE. I'M FINE NOW.
THAT REMINDS ME, WHAT ABOUT DANIEL-SAMA?
OH, THAT GUY, HE WENT TO CASTORIA. HE LEFT ON AN INTELLIGENCE-GATHERING MISSION TO SEARCH FOR SODA'S WHERE-ABOUTS.
I SEE.
LOOK, DAISY!
TRY WORKING AS MUCH AS YOU POINTLESSLY CHATTER!
START BY WASHING ALL OF THIS.
I'M NEEDED MORE IN THE FIELDS, SO I LEAVE THE REST TO YOU!
ALL OF THIS BY MYSELF?
SHE'S NOT GOING EASY ON ME, HUH.

"PRINCESS PRIMULA, YOU ARE MY PRIDE AND JOY."
"FROM NOW ON, PLEASE LIVE AS YOU WANT TO."
UNTIL RECENTLY, I WAS OVER THERE...
IT ALREADY SEEMS LIKE THE EVENTS OF THE DISTANT PAST.
"THERE ARE STILL THINGS THAT YOU SHOULD BE DOING!"
BESIDES THAT, THE SILVER APOTHECARY IS STILL ALIVE. PERHAPS NOT IN THE PRINCESS'S DESIRED FORM, BUT..."
"NOT MY DESIRED FORM"!... I WONDER WHAT ON EARTH THAT MEANS.
DUE TO ILLNESS OR INJURY, HIS APPEARANCE IS COMPLETELY DIFFERENT OR SOMETHING?
UNTIL THEN...

BEAZOL CASTLE
WHAT CAN THE CURRENT ME DO?
ON THIS OCCASION, WE CONGRATULATE YOU ON YOUR ENTHRONEMENT, KING TRILDAN.
EVEN GIVING A DIGNIFIED BURIAL TO THAT PEERLESSLY COLDHEARTED PREVIOUS KING AND HIS CHIEF ADVISOR ARGON,
IS BENEVOLENCE RESEMBLING YOUR DECEASED FATHER, TIGASON-SAMA.
WE HAVE HIGH HOPES FOR THE FUTURE AS WELL.
BY THE WAY, IT'S A BIT ABRUPT, BUT I'D LIKE TO BE GRANTED A DISCUSSION OF TAX REDUCTION FOR MY TERRITORY.
UNFORT-UNATELY,
THANKS.


YOU FINALLY ASCENDED THE THRONE AS YOU SO EARNESTLY DESIRED. BUT YOU BUT STILL LOOK DEPRESSED.
PARDON US
AS FOR THE REST, IT WILL HAVE TO WAIT UNTIL NEXT TIME... I'M WEARY FROM CONTINUOUS AUDIENCE.
THAT'S SURELY.. FEELINGS OF GUILT.
IT'S NOTHING LIKE THAT. I JUST HAVE A LOT ON MY MIND. IT IS COMPLICATED.
IT'S NOT IMPOSSIBLE THAT YOU WOULD FEEL SOME CONFLICTS IN YOUR HEART.
THERE WAS A TIME ONCE WHEN YOU THOUGHT SERIOUSLY ABOUT BEING KING.
BUT NOW, ALL OF THE CITIZENS EXPECT YOU, THEIR ADORED KING, TO LEAD THEM.
IS TO, FROM THE VANTAGE POINT OF THIS COUNTRY, CRUSH THE SURROUNDING COUNTRIES
YOUR ORIGINAL PURPOSE... THE MISSION GIVEN BY THAT GENTLEMAN FROM THE SOUTHERN NATION,

THAT SLY OLD FOX.
EVERYTHING PLAYED OUT ACCORDING TO HIS PLAN, HUH?
FEELINGS OF GUILT, HUH...?
AS THE KING OF BEAZOL SAID, PEOPLE NOW SEE ME AS THE HERO WHO DROVE OUT THE FORMER KING, A SYMBOL OF EVIL PERSONIFIED.
MORE IMPORTANTLY, WHAT IS THAT GUY DOING NOW?
THE NEXT DESTINATION AFTER KENT.
HE HAS TURNED TO THE "RELIEF OF THE PEOPLE" OF BEAZOL'S NEIGHBOR TO THE WEST, THE COUNTRY OF IBRAIM
CORDA, FROM NOW ON, YOU GO TOO.
WHY?
OF COURSE I COULDN'T HAVE FAITH IN THAT GUY AS A COLLEAGUE.
ACTUALLY, SPEAKING OF YOU, YOU'VE FOUND A FELLOW BASILISK, BUT, FAR FROM MATING,
YOU SEEM TO HAVE NOT YET EVEN TOUCHED WITH ONE FINGER, ISN'T THAT RIGHT?

ALTHOUGH BASILISKS, WE ARE ALSO HUMANS!
WE HAVE FEELINGS DON'T GROUP US TOGETHER WITH EXOTIC ANIMALS.
FINE IN ACCORDANCE WITH YOUR ORDERS, I WILL GO.
IT'S PREFERABLE TO BEING WITH YOU
SHATTER
NOW I'VE DONE IT..
SINCE YOU ARE A PRINCESS, WE SAID WE WOULD PICK IT UP FOR YOU, AND YET!
OUCH!

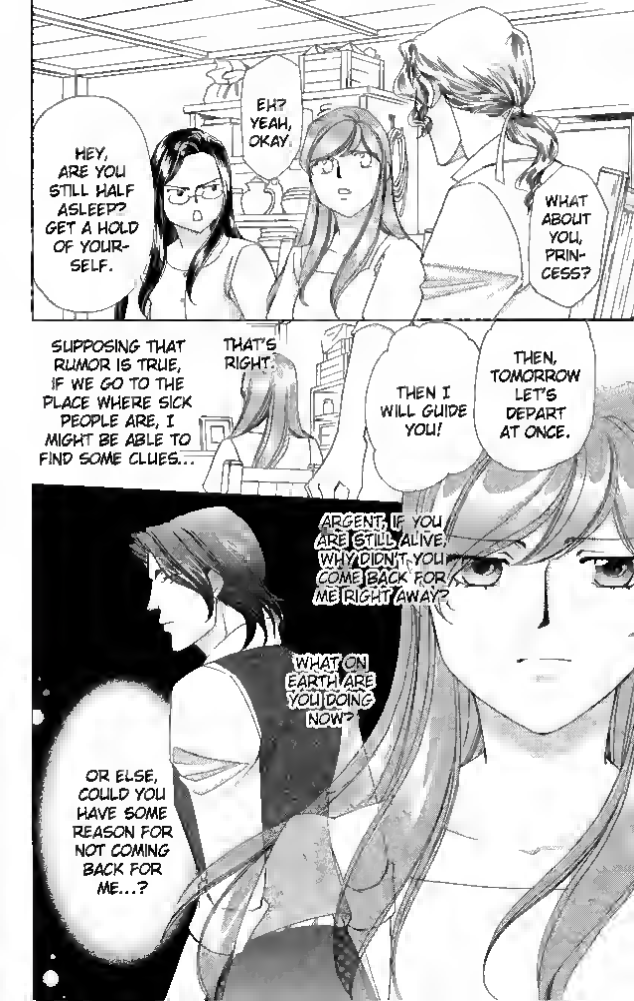
"PAIN PAIN FLY AWAY"= WHEN A CHILD FALLS AND HURTS THEMSELVES, THE PARENT RUBS THE INJURED AREA THEN PICKS THEM UP LIKE AN AIRPLANE.
THERE WAS STILL A LOT LEFT OF MY DESERT, BUT...
IT'S NOT THAT!
RUB RUB
I'LL DO "PAIN, PAIN, FLY AWAY!"
ARE YOU OKAY, PRINCESS?
WAGH..
UNTIL THEN, EAT MINE.
I'LL BRING YOU A REPLACEMENT RIGHT AWAY.
Plop
PRINCESS...?
I REMEMBERED VARIOUS THINGS A LITTLE BIT...
GARANA
IT SEEMS IT WILL BE DINER TIME SOON, ARE YOU FINISHED?

ALTHOUGH LONG AGO I HATED BEING A PRINCESS THAT MUCH,
SINCE PARTING WITH IT, I HAVE REALIZED WHAT'S IMPORTANT.
HUMAN LIFE IS LIKE THAT.
SOONER OR LATER, EVERYONE DIES. IT'S JUST THAT SOME WENT BEFORE YOU, PRINCESS.
GARANA.
AT TIMES LIKE THAT, CRY TO YOUR HEART'S CONTENT AND FIND SOMETHING TO DEVOTE YOURSELF TO DOING.
YOU WILL BE ABLE TO LIVE WITHOUT THINKING ABOUT UNNECESSARY THINGS
BUT RIGHT NOW, HONESTLY, I DON'T KNOW WHAT I SHOULD DO.
YOU HAVE ONLY JUST STARTED. THERE'S NO NEED TO HURRY.
KYAAA!
THAT IS YUBELLA'S VOICE.

CLATTER
YUBELLA!
WHO ARE YOU? WHAT DID YOU DO TO YUBELLA?
IF YOU HAVE ALREADY FORGOTTEN ME, YOU ARE COLD-HEARTED, NOBLE LADY
NO, YOU HAVE BEEN "DAISY" FOR A WHILE NOW, HUH?
HIS NAME!
KYAAA!
IT'S ME, THE BALADEER OF LOVE, DANIEL!

DANIEL-SAMA'S BEAUTIFUL HAIR IS...
HIS HAIR IS... WAGH!
SOMEHOW OR OTHER, I AM NOW A WANTED MAN. I WAS THINKING THAT MY DISTINCTIVE GOOD LOOKS WOULD STAND OUT, SO...
Do I look sad like this?
NO, IT'S NOT THAT...
Wash!
AS EXPECTED, SINCE THE RAW MATERIAL IS GOOD, IT SUITS YOU.
I AM SORRY FOR THE TROUBLE I HAVE PUT YOU THROUGH UNTIL NOW.
NOT AT ALL. I'VE BEEN THINKING FOR A WHILE THAT I WOULD LIKE TO DO A MAKEOVER ANYWAYS
FIRST OF ALL, I'M SORRY TO SAY THAT, FOLLOWING THE DEATH OF THE PREVIOUS LEADER, CASTORIA HAS DECAYED.
IT WAS BY NATURE AN UNSTABLE COUNTRY, BUT NOW IT SEEMS IT IS BECOMING A COMPLETELY LAWLESS AREA.
WELL THEN, WITHOUT DELAY, I'LL REPORT THE RESULTS OF THIS TIME'S INVESTIGATION.
Tap

I BET, WITH HIS USUAL QUICK WITTEDNESS, SOMEHOW OR OTHER HE WILL SURVIVE.
IT'S HIM WE'RE TALKING ABOUT.
What do I call you Master from now on?
How about it? Just spare my life!
SO THAT MEANS... WHERE IS SODA RIGHT NOW? I HOPE HE'S SAFE.
THAT EXPLAINS NOT BEING ABLE TO MAKE CONTACT EVEN THOUGH WE SEND MESSAGES REPEATEDLY.
IT'S NOT CERTAIN IF IT IS THE SAME ILLNESS THAT RUINED THE COUNTRY OF KENT, BUT...
IN THE NEARBY TERRITORY OF CHARIS, A RAPIDLY SPREADING ILLNESS SEEMS TO HAVE BROKEN OUT
THERE'S ONE MORE RUMOR THAT I'VE BECOME AWARE OF.
I SUPPORT IT!
WELL, THERE IS A SUGGESTION, BUT... LUCKILY, WE HAVE THE MEDICINE APOTHECARY ZANTAK GAVE US AS A PARTING GIFT. I WONDER HOW IT WOULD BE IF WE ALL WENT TO CHECK OUT THE SITUATION.
EVEN SO, I CAN'T SAY DEFINITIVELY
ILLNESS DOESN'T RECOGNIZE COUNTRY BORDERS THE TERRITORY OF CHARIS IS LOCATED ON THE BORDER WITH KENT.


HEY, ARE YOU STILL HALF ASLEEP? GET A HOLD OF YOURSELF.
EH? YEAH, OKAY.
WHAT ABOUT YOU, PRINCESS?
SUPPOSING THAT RUMOR IS TRUE, IF WE GO TO THE PLACE WHERE SICK PEOPLE ARE, I MIGHT BE ABLE TO FIND SOME CLUES...
THAT'S RIGHT.
THEN I WILL GUIDE YOU!
THEN, TOMORROW LET'S DEPART AT ONCE.
ARGENT, IF YOU ARE STILL ALIVE, WHY DIDN'T YOU COME BACK FOR ME RIGHT AWAY?
WHAT ON EARTH ARE YOU DOING NOW?
OR ELSE, COULD YOU HAVE SOME REASON FOR NOT COMING BACK FOR ME...?

EXCUSE ME.
I HEARD THERE WAS AN APOTHECARY HERE WHO MAKES A CURE FOR ANY KIND OF DISEASE AND CAME TO VISIT.
CERTAINLY, I'M ABLE TO TREAT, BUT...
THANK GOODNESS!
ACTUALLY, IN MY VILLAGE AN UNUSUAL ILLNESS HAS BROKEN OUT. JUST THE OTHER DAY, KENT WAS DEVASTATED BY A RAPIDLY SPREADING DISEASE, RIGHT?
IF IT'S MONEY, I'LL PAY IT NO MATTER HOW MUCH. IT'S URGENT THAT YOU SELL ME THAT MEDICINE

UNTIL NOW, HAVE YOU EXPERIENCED ANY LIFE-THREATENING ILLNESS OR INJURIES?
EH... NO?
IT'S A PITY, BUT,
THIS ISN'T SOMETHING THAT CAN BE BOUGHT WITH MONEY. THAT IS TO SAY, THIS IS A SPECIAL MEDICINE. CONSEQUENTLY, I HAVE TO BE SELECTIVE ABOUT WHO I GIVE IT TO...
OH, I SEE! YOU'RE WORRIED ABOUT SIDE EFFECTS AND PREDISPOSED CONDITIONS.
IF THAT'S ALL, IT'S FINE! I AM IN EXTREMELY GOOD HEALTH!!
VERY WELL. THIS MEDICINE...
AS A TEST, START OFF BY TAKING THIS, AND IF IT SEEMS SAFE,
I'LL GIVE YOU THE MEDICINE

THE BORDER OF BEAZOL AND KENT; THE TERRITORY OF CHARIS
CLATTER CLATTER
TAKE CARE
UNDER-STOOD TH-THANK YOU..
IT DOESN'T SEEM TO BE A PAR-TICULARLY SERIOUS SITUATION, DOES IT?
YEAH

FEAR NOT!
WE ARE A TEAM OF TRAVELING "DOCTORS WITHOUT BORDERS," THE "MEDICAL ASSISTANCE GROUP OF LOVE"!
APPEAR
WELL, WHAT IS IT? WHAT DID YOU GUYS COME TO DO?
NO... THAT IS, WE HEARD A RAPIDLY SPREADING ILLNESS BROKE OUT HERE...
IN THAT CASE, BY ALL MEANS, PLEASE EXAMINE THIS CHILD!
SINCE LAST NIGHT, A RASH HAS APPEARED ON HER ARM, AND...
EH? AH... UM...
WHAT SHOULD I DO, PRINCESS!? REGARDING ILLNESS, I AM AN AMATEUR
WHY ARE YOU ASKING ME!?
IT IS INFLAMED.
HE PROBABLY CAME INTO CONTACT WITH SOME KIND OF UNUSUAL SUBSTANCE
DAISY, THE MASTER'S OINTMENT!
R... RIGHT!
It's a good thing Serena came.

TH-
THEIF
...!!
IF YOU'RE LOOKING FOR THE MEDICINE, I JUST PUT IT OVER.
Huh?
CARL, THE MEDICINE!
HUH.. WHAT WAS THAT?
IT WAS DROPPED OVER THERE, SO I JUST PICKED IT UP!
THIEF IS SUCH A STRONG WORD.
PRINCESS!
NO, I MEANT... DAISY!
WHAT THE.. YOU DAMN OLD HAG!
IF YOU DON'T LIKE IT, TRY AND CATCH ME IF YOU CAN, LITTLE GIRL!
I'M EXTREMELY SORRY.
IT LOOKS LIKE MY MASTER'S MASTER'S BAD HABIT HAS APPEARED AGAIN
NO, BEFORE THAT, WE MIGHT BE DISCOVERED BY OUR PURSUERS.
IF WE CAUSE A DISTURBANCE IN A PLACE LIKE THIS, IT WILL START RUMORS IN VARIOUS COUNTRIES.

AH!
CARLI ...?
SODA ...?
SPEAKING OF, JUST NOW DIDN'T HE CALL YOU "PRINCESS"..?
ARE YOU IN THE HABIT OF BEING CHASED, OLD WOMAN..?
CHASECHASECHASECHASE
I CAUGHT YOU!
FWUMP

OW...
YOU REALLY DID IT, HUH... YOU'RE THE FIRST ONE TO BE ABLE TO CATCH ME.
AS PROMISED, RETURN THE MEDICINE!
I DON'T WANT TO.
WHY!?
"MEDICAL ASSISTANCE GROUP" THAT IS A DOWNRIGHT LIE. YOU PEOPLE ARE JUST AMATEURS.
THIS MEDICINE IS WASTED IN THE HANDS OF SUCH AMATEURS AND FOR THE SAKE OF SAFETY, I DON'T WANT YOU TO USE IT.
!
THEN WHAT ON EARTH DO YOU THINK YOU ARE?
DAMN OLD HAG!
PRINCESS! I APPRENTICED TO THAT "DAMN OLD HAG" IN CASTORIA. SHE'S APOTHECARY LULU!
?

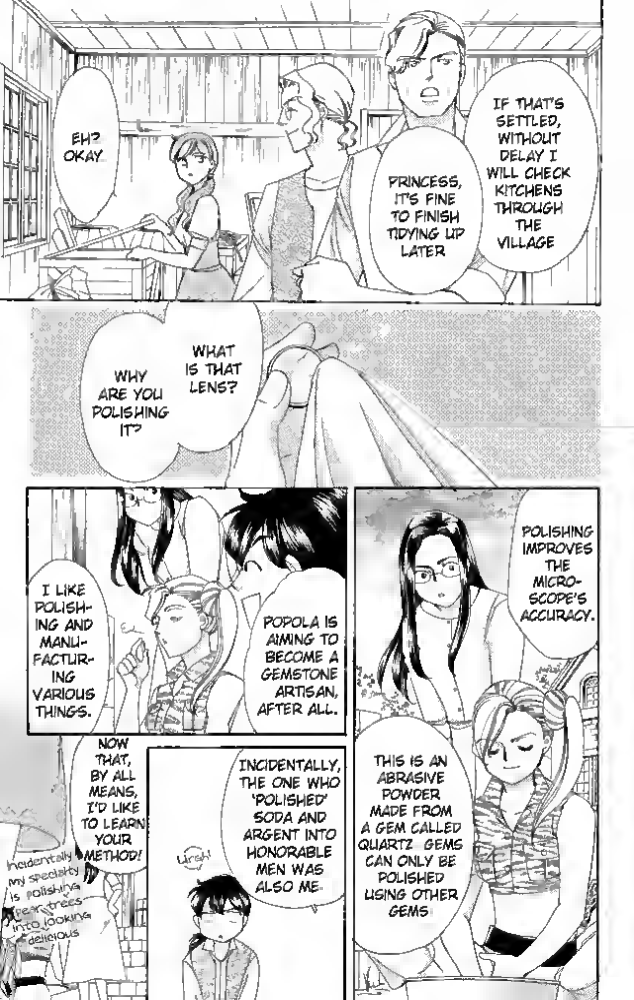
And so-
LULU, YOU MIGHT NOT BELIEVE IT, BUT THAT "LITTLE GIRL" IS THE PRINCESS OF BEAZOL THAT YOU'VE HEARD ABOUT...
SODA!?
EHHHH!?
WHEEZE WHEEZE
There's really no need
My lady shall I carry that for you?
LULU'S MOBILE CLINIC
YOU ARE THE PRINCESS I'D HEARD ARGENT WAS SERVING...
YOU ARE THE RUMORED DOCTOR LULU...

THEY ARE KIND OF GIVING ME THE CHILLS...
What's up with that guy's taste?
I would have thought she'd be that kind of attractive mature lady.
AND HE IS THE FORMER INN-KEEPER
My name will be released at some point!!
BY THE WAY, THIS IS POPOLA AND JADE, FROM CASTORIA
THE CASTLE'S COOK, GARANA, AND YUBELLA, DAUGHTER OF A PEACH PLANTATION
I AM THE ETIQUETTE INSTRUCTOR, CARLI, THIS IS THE MARTIAL ARTS INSTRUCTOR, CARBEAU,
THESE ARE THE PRINCESS'S CLOSE ASSOCIATES
IT SEEMS TO ME LIKE HIS "BALLAD OF LOVE" IS A ONE-SHOT GAG.
SH!
I AM DEFEATED! MY REPUTATION PRECEDES ME ALL THE WAY TO CASTORIA!
YOU ARE THE RENOWNED "BALLAD-EER OF LOVE"!
From here on, it's my pleasure to make your acquaintance.
AND I AM THE SECOND PRINCE OF NAVARA, DANIEL.

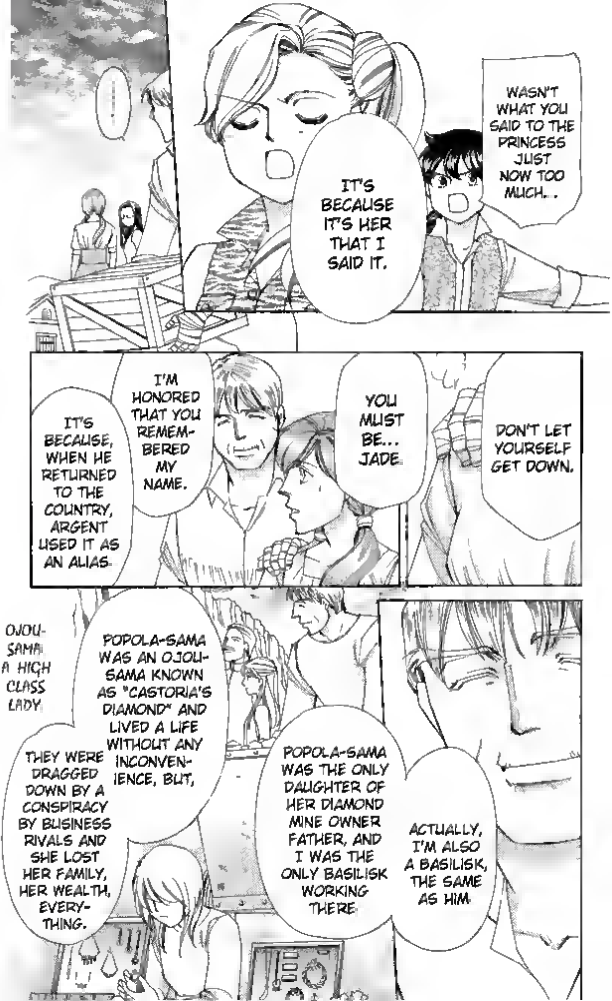
IT LOOKS LIKE.. WITHOUT KNOWING THAT YOU WERE APOTHECARY LULU, I WAS UNACCOUNTABLY RUDE. I AM SORRY
WE ARE CERTAINLY AMATEURS REGARDING MEDICINE
BY ALL MEANS, IN OUR PLACE, PLEASE MAKE USE OF THE MEDICINE.
A PRINCESS WHO ACKNOW-LEDGES HER OWN FAULTS.. YOU'RE AN INCREDIBLE GIRL.
SINCE I AM NO LONGER A PRINCESS..
WE HEARD THAT HIS MAJESTY PASSED AWAY AND TRILDAN WAS CROWNED.
AND THEN THAT MASTER WAS SUDDENLY EXECUTED.
WE'VE ALSO HEARD THAT MASTER IS ALIVE AND PRACTICING MEDICINE SOMEWHERE, BUT...
SODA TOO?
I'VE ALSO HEARD AS MUCH FROM AN UNUSUAL CHARACTER
BUT IT WASN'T TRUE! IT IS A COMP-LETELY DIFFERENT PERSON!

THAT ... IS TRUE, HUH.
IT COULDN'T BE HIM.
BUT IT'S POSSIBLE THAT HE MIGHT STILL BE ALIVE.
WELL, IT IS ONLY A GAMBLE, BUT...
INN-KEEPER!
THAT GUY IS SAID TO BE SELECTING PATIENTS AND PRE-SCRIBING POISON.
SOMEONE ACTING LIKE THAT IS DEFINITELY NOT MASTER
THIS IS NOT CASTORIA WHERE GAMBLING IS LEGAL.
BEFORE SPEAKING, READ THE ATMO-SPHERE!
YOU WERE PROBABLY SURPRISED THAT AMONG THE PEOPLE FROM CASTORIA, MANY ARE RUFFIANS.
WELL, BECAUSE I WAS READING IN BOOKS THAT IT'S A MERCANTILE COUNTRY WHERE ALL THE CITIZENS ARE MERCHANTS...
BUT, MORE THAN THAT, I'M SURPRISED THAT YOU EXTREMELY QUICKLY CAME HERE TO HELP.

THAT'S THE MICROSCOPE THAT ARGENT CREATED, RIGHT?
I HEARD THE RUMORS ABOUT 10 DAYS AGO. . FORTUNATELY, IT LOOKS LIKE ORDINARY FOOD POISONING
LOOKING AT IT LIKE THIS, THE THING WHICH CAUSES HARM IS VISIBLE.
IT'S AS IF HE CREATED IT IN ORDER TO PROVE MY THEORY THAT THE SOURCE OF ILLNESS
IS TINY LIVING CREATURES NOT VISIBLE TO THE EYE.
IF HE'S STILL ALIVE, EVEN THE COUNTRY OF KENT MIGHT ALSO HAVE BEEN ABLE TO AVOID THE WORST SITUATION, AND YET..
WELL, EVEN IF IT IS JUST FOR THE SAKE OF CARRYING ON WITH HIS INTENTIONS, I WILL GIVE IT A TRY.
BUT, IF YOU WILL LEND A HAND, IT MIGHT NOT BE TOO LATE FOR THE OTHER COUNTRIES.
BECAUSE WE WILL DO WHATEVER WE CAN TO HELP.


EH? OKAY
PRINCESS, IT'S FINE TO FINISH TIDYING UP LATER
IF THAT'S SETTLED, WITHOUT DELAY I WILL CHECK KITCHENS THROUGH THE VILLAGE
WHY ARE YOU POLISHING IT?
WHAT IS THAT LENS?
I LIKE POLISHING AND MANUFACTURING VARIOUS THINGS.
POPOLA IS AIMING TO BECOME A GEMSTONE ARTISAN, AFTER ALL.
POLISHING IMPROVES THE MICROSCOPE'S ACCURACY.
THIS IS AN ABRASIVE POWDER MADE FROM A GEM CALLED QUARTZ. GEMS CAN ONLY BE POLISHED USING OTHER GEMS.
NOW THAT, BY ALL MEANS, I'D LIKE TO LEARN YOUR METHOD!
Incidentally my specialty is polishing gemstones into looking delicious
INCIDENTALLY, THE ONE WHO 'POLISHED' SODA AND ARGENT INTO HONORABLE MEN WAS ALSO ME.
Urish!

PRINCESS, WHAT IS IT?
I AM REALLY NO LONGER IN THAT POSITION...
EVERYONE IS MAKING USE OF THEIR RESPECTIVE SKILLS AND EXPERIENCE, AND YET...
IF YOU TALK ABOUT WHAT I CAN DO, I HAVE VERY FEW SKILLS AND MEDIOCRE COOKING ABILITY.
THIS IS MY FIRST TIME NOT BEING A PRINCESS.
IT HAS MADE ME REALIZE THAT I AM A WORTHLESS HUMAN BEING.
HEY, POPOLA!
IF ARGENT COULD HEAR YOU NOW, HE WOULD CERTAINLY BE DISAPPOINTED, RIGHT?
WELL, SPEAKING OF A PERSON'S WORTH... IS SOMETHING THAT A THIRD PARTY WILL DECIDE. HOW CAN YOU SAY FOR YOURSELF THAT YOU DON'T HAVE WORTH.


WASN'T WHAT YOU SAID TO THE PRINCESS JUST NOW TOO MUCH...
IT'S BECAUSE IT'S HER THAT I SAID IT.
DON'T LET YOURSELF GET DOWN.
YOU MUST BE... JADE.
I'M HONORED THAT YOU REMEMBERED MY NAME.
IT'S BECAUSE, WHEN HE RETURNED TO THE COUNTRY, ARGENT USED IT AS AN ALIAS.
OJOU-SAMA: A HIGH CLASS LADY
POPOLA-SAMA WAS AN OJOU-SAMA KNOWN AS "CASTORIA'S DIAMOND" AND LIVED A LIFE WITHOUT ANY INCONVENIENCE, BUT,
THEY WERE DRAGGED DOWN BY A CONSPIRACY BY BUSINESS RIVALS AND SHE LOST HER FAMILY, HER WEALTH, EVERYTHING.
POPOLA-SAMA WAS THE ONLY DAUGHTER OF HER DIAMOND MINE OWNER FATHER, AND I WAS THE ONLY BASILISK WORKING THERE.
ACTUALLY, I'M ALSO A BASILISK, THE SAME AS HIM.

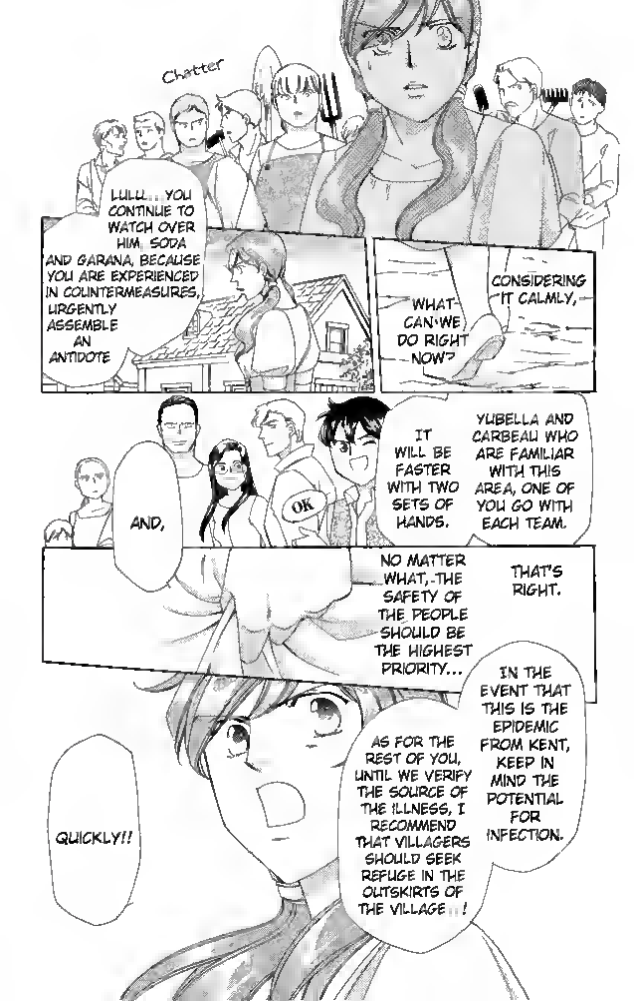
EVEN IF YOU ARE CURRENTLY A BIT DIMINISHED BY BEING DAMAGED, IT IS FINE
YOU CAN SHINE AGAIN.
EVEN SO, FAR FROM BREAKING, SHE EVEN PAINSTAKINGLY 'POLISHED' HERSELF INTO THE PERSON YOU SEE NOW
BECAUSE IT IS ONLY FROM THESE SITUATIONS THAT YOU WILL GATHER "GEMS."
HEY!
WHAT DO YOU MEAN?
UM... THE SOMETHING OF LOVE... WHAT WAS IT AGAIN?
MEDICAL ASSIS-TANCE GROUP?
WHATEVER, SOMETHING BAD HAPPENED, PLEASE COME URGENTLY!

Chatter
Chatter
SOMEONE ... HELP ME...
IT IS PAIN-FUL...
IT IS REALLY BAD! HE NEEDS MEDICAL ASSISTANCE IMMEDI-ATELY!
WAIT, THE SITUATION IS UNUSUAL
BREAKING OUT INTO CONVULSIONS IS NOT NORMAL.
COULD IT POSSIBLY BE THE RAPIDLY SPREADING ILLNESS FROM KENT..?
IF THAT IS SO, ALL THE MORE REASON WHY WE NEED TO HELP HIM.
WAIT! YOU DON'T HAVE TO HELP THAT GUY!

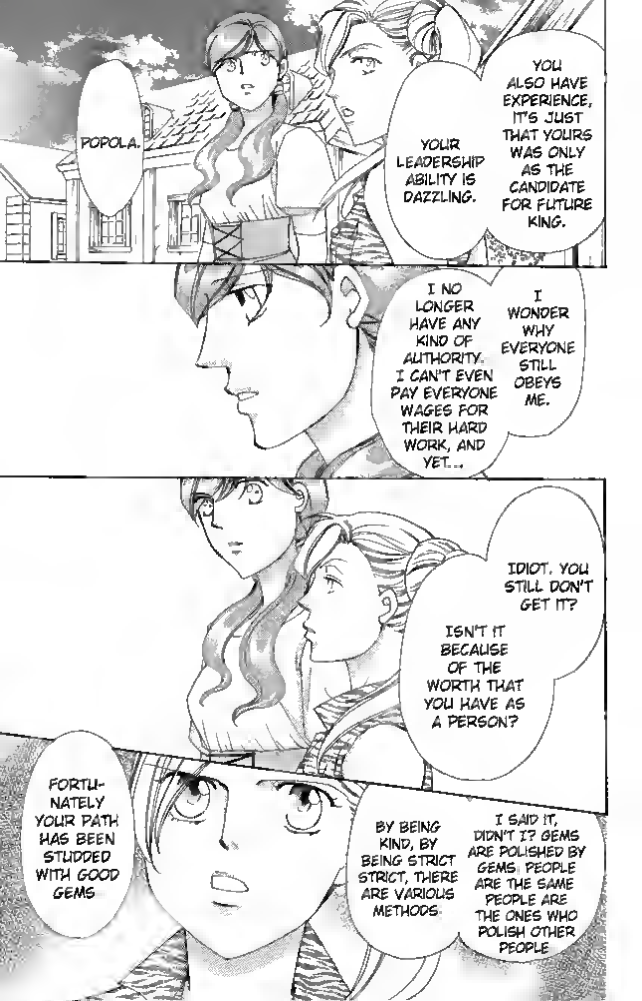
THE OTHER DAY, THE SICK PEOPLE SUDDENLY LEFT THE VILLAGE, TAKING ALL OF THEIR BELONGINGS WITH THEM. THEY DISAPPEARED. AND HE HAD THE NERVE TO NOT BE CONCERNED AT ALL!
THAT IS RIGHT!
THAT GUY IS A PERSON OF HIGH RANK WHO HABITUALLY SEVERELY EXCISED MONEY FROM AND TORMENTED US!
WAIT A MINUTE ...!
IF IT IS A CASE OF THE RAPIDLY SPREADING ILLNESS FROM KENT, ISN'T THAT JUST ALL THE MORE REASON NOT TO HAVE HIM IN THE VILLAGE!?
NO, MORE THAT THAT, THIS IS THE SITUATION IT WOULD BE GOOD FOR HIM TO DIE.
WHY DON'T YOU JUST GET OUT OF THIS VILLAGE!
WAIT!
WE HAVE NOT EVEN ESTABLISHED THAT THIS IS CASE OF THE SAME DISEASE YET!
IF I REMEMBER CORRECTLY, IF IT IS KENT'S EPIDEMIC, CAN'T IT BE SPREAD EVEN BY A SINGLE DEAD BODY?

CERTAINLY, THIS MAN'S BEHAVIOR MIGHT HAVE BEEN BAD.
EVEN SO, IT DOES NOT JUSTIFY TAKING HIS LIFE.
THERE'S SOMETHING I CAN DO HERE.
THERE-FORE..!
"SOMETHING YOU CAN DO" YOU SAY, BUT WHAT CAN YOU DO!?
A LONE OUTSIDER, WHAT IS SO GREAT ABOUT YOU!?
THAT IS TRUE
I AM NO LONGER A PRINCESS
I DON'T HAVE THE AUTHORITY TO ORDER PEOPLE TO DO ANYTHING AS JUST A NORMAL, POWERLESS GIRL, I...
YEAH YEAH, PARDON ME LET ME THROUGH.

LET ME SEE.
RATHER THAN "ILLNESS," THIS IS SOME KIND OF POISON.
WHAT ON EARTH DID YOU PUT IN YOUR MOUTH?
I... TOOK MEDICINE.
I GOT IT FROM AN APOTHECARY WHO HAS A SECRET MEDICINE EFFECTIVE AGAINST ANY KIND OF ILLNESS.
I HEARD THERE MAY BE SOME KIND OF SIDE EFFECTS, BUT TO THIS EXTENT...?
IT IS IMPOSSIBLE TO CURE THIS WITH THE MEDICINE WE HAVE ON HAND
WHAT DO YOU THINK WE SHOULD DO?
EH?
YOU HAVE A PLAN, RIGHT? PLEASE SAY IT.


Chatter
LULU... YOU CONTINUE TO WATCH OVER HIM, SODA AND GARANA, BECAUSE YOU ARE EXPERIENCED IN COUNTERMEASURES, URGENTLY ASSEMBLE AN ANTIDOTE
CONSIDERING IT CALMLY,
WHAT CAN WE DO RIGHT NOW?
OK
AND,
IT WILL BE FASTER WITH TWO SETS OF HANDS.
YUBELLA AND CARBEAU WHO ARE FAMILIAR WITH THIS AREA, ONE OF YOU GO WITH EACH TEAM.
THAT'S RIGHT.
NO MATTER WHAT, THE SAFETY OF THE PEOPLE SHOULD BE THE HIGHEST PRIORITY...
IN THE EVENT THAT THIS IS THE EPIDEMIC FROM KENT, KEEP IN MIND THE POTENTIAL FOR INFECTION.
AS FOR THE REST OF YOU, UNTIL WE VERIFY THE SOURCE OF THE ILLNESS, I RECOMMEND THAT VILLAGERS SHOULD SEEK REFUGE IN THE OUTSKIRTS OF THE VILLAGE!!
QUICKLY!!

WHAT ARE YOU PLAYING AT, EXPECTING US TO WAIT MOTIONLESSLY AT A TIME LIKE THIS!?
THEN, IN THE MEAN TIME, AS A DIVERSION, HOW ABOUT WE HAVE A LITTLE BET?
WITHOUT HURRY, WITHOUT PANIC, ELEGANTLY..
ROGER. WELL THEN, LET'S GO, EVERYONE.
AND YOU GUYS? WHATEVER YOU HAVE ON HAND IS FINE.
I WILL BET THIS ENTIRE FORTUNE THAT THAT GIRL'S PLAN GOES SMOOTHLY
Chatter
Chatter
WELL THEN, LET'S GAMBLE OVER THERE
I'LL PUT ONE CHICKEN ON THAT GIRL'S FAILURE!
I'M ON THE OPPOSITE SIDE!
FOR ME, I'LL PUT THESE IMPORTANT GLASSES ON THAT GIRL
THEN, FOR ME, I'LL PUT THE REST OF MY GOLDEN HAIR ON THAT GIRL
AS YOU WOULD EXPECT, FROM THE MAN WHO MADE HIS WAY UP FROM ORIGINALLY "CASINO KING" AND THEN ONTO "HOTEL KING".
WHEN I AM STRESSED, THOROUGHLY SATISFYING AMUSEMENT IS THE BEST
I WILL PRAY FOR GOOD LUCK!


POPOLA.
YOUR LEADERSHIP ABILITY IS DAZZLING.
YOU ALSO HAVE EXPERIENCE, IT'S JUST THAT YOURS WAS ONLY AS THE CANDIDATE FOR FUTURE KING.
I WONDER WHY EVERYONE STILL OBEYS ME.
I NO LONGER HAVE ANY KIND OF AUTHORITY. I CAN'T EVEN PAY EVERYONE WAGES FOR THEIR HARD WORK, AND YET...
IDIOT. YOU STILL DON'T GET IT?
ISN'T IT BECAUSE OF THE WORTH THAT YOU HAVE AS A PERSON?
I SAID IT, DIDN'T I? GEMS ARE POLISHED BY GEMS. PEOPLE ARE THE SAME PEOPLE ARE THE ONES WHO POLISH OTHER PEOPLE
BY BEING KIND, BY BEING STRICT STRICT, THERE ARE VARIOUS METHODS.
FORTU-NATELY YOUR PATH HAS BEEN STUDDED WITH GOOD GEMS

Would you ladies like to hear my Ballad of Love?
SPEAKING FIGURATIVELY, SODA IS STUBBORN OBSIDIAN.
PRINCE DANIEL IS AN ALLURING RUBY THAT HAS A PASSIONATE RED COLOR.
LULU IS AMBER, WHICH HAS ENTRAPPED COUNTLESS HISTORY INSIDE.
THE OTHERS TOO, THOUGH THEY MAY HAVE THEIR SMALL FLAWS, THE RAW MATERIAL IS NOT BAD.
IT IS PROBABLY BECAUSE YOU HAVE A SPECIAL RADIANCE LIKE A DIAMOND THAT FASCINATES PEOPLE.
I AM SURE THAT IT IS ALSO WHAT CAPTIVATED ARGENT ABOUT YOU.

YOU CERTAINLY LOST THE CROWN.
BUT IF YOU SKILLFULLY POLISH ALL OF THE GEMS INTO THE CORRECT POSITION, YOU WILL SURELY BE ABLE TO HAVE IN YOUR HANDS A STUNNING CROWN.
IT IS APPARENT TO ME THAT THE GROUP WHICH HAS GATHERED AROUND YOU
SHINES AS BRIGHTLY AS ANY CROWN!

THANK GOOD-NESS.
AS IT TURNS OUT, IT WAS NOT THE EPIDEMIC FROM KENT OR ANYTHING. YOU CAN REST EASY.
OPEN
EVERYONE, THE NOBLEMAN HAS SUCCESS-FULLY RECOVERED.
DEAR!
IT'S A SCAM! YOU CHEATER!
WELL THEN, EVERYONE WHO WAS DEFEATED CAN PUT THE ITEMS THEY BET IN HERE.
I SEE NOW. WE REALLY DON'T HAVE AN EYE FOR PICKING PEOPLE.
SINCE NOTHING CAME OF IT, IT'S FINE, RIGHT?
FOR A MOMENT THERE, WE WERE SO CAUGHT UP IN THE ATMOSPHERE OF FEAR THAT WE WOULD HAVE KILLED A PERSON.
WHAT CAN I SAY TO YOU...

RIGHT, THAT WAS IT. IT WAS ALREADY UNDERWAY, RIGHT? WE WILL URGENTLY ERECT COUNTER MEASURES.
TREATING THE FOOD POISONING.
WELL THEN, WHAT'S NEXT...?
AND INSPIRE EVERYONE TO ACTION, SHE IS REALLY SOMETHING...
TO COME TO THAT DECISION IN ONLY A MOMENT,
WHO ON EARTH IS SHE, THAT GIRL?
AT LAST, SHE HAS RETURNED TO THE NORMAL PRINCESS.
NOW I SEE, THIS IS WHAT YOU MEANT BY "IT'S BECAUSE IT'S THAT PERSON." OF COURSE IT'S BECAUSE YOU IMMEDIATELY BEGAN TO 'POLISH' HER.
WELL, IT'S BECAUSE THAT PERSON SEEMED IN NEED OF A LITTLE POLISHING.
NO, IT COULDN'T BE...
BESIDES, DIAMONDS CAN ONLY BE POLISHED BY OTHER DIAMONDS.
FROM HERE ON IS GOING TO BE FUN.

WITH THAT CAST OF CHARACTERS, I AM CONCERNED ABOUT WHAT WILL HAPPEN NEXT.
"MEDICAL ASSISTANCE GROUP OF LOVE," HUH...
BUT, THIS MIGHT BE A GOOD OPPORTUNITY TO REPENT YOUR PAST BEHAVIOR.
WELL, IF YOU ASK ME, ILLNESS HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH DIVINE RETRIBUTION.
LOOK AT IT LIKE THIS... THIS MIGHT HAVE BEEN ME GETTING DIVINE RETRIBUTION FOR MY BEHAVIOR, RIGHT?
CERTAINLY, THIS MEDICINE WAS PRESCRIBED WITH THE INTENTION THAT SIDE EFFECTS WILL ARISE.
FURTHERMORE, IT TOOK CONSIDERABLE SKILL TO FORMULATE SO THAT IT WILL RESULT IN JUST SHORT OF DEATH.
REGARDING THE APOTHECARY WHO CAN BE SAID TO HAVE "TRANSMITTED" THAT MEDICINE TO YOU, WHY DON'T YOU TELL ME ABOUT HIM IN DETAIL...
CH. 36/END

あとがき

お見あけとなります。本誌ではまだ下えらい展開になってます。
BAD END にするつもりはないのでもうしばらくお待ちくださいね。
今回解説なしなので勝手に描いてみました。実はこの人達まだ名前がない。主役級以外はいつも下書きにオマケなので。

「薬師アルジャン」⑨／完

お便りお待ちしてます!（不定期ですが上のような4コマまんが満載のペーパーを返信してます）〒102-8108 東京都千代田区飯田橋2-10-8 秋田書店プリンセス編集部気付 山下友美まで